

Sudan peace talks end without accord

NAIROBI (R) — Talks between Sudan and southern rebels on ending one of Africa's longest-running civil wars have been inconclusive, a Kenyan mediator said on Saturday.

Science and Technology minister Zachary Onyanga said the 10-day talks ended on Friday after Khartoum and rebels of the splintered Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) wrangled over self-determination and the status of religion.

The SPLA has fought since 1983 against what it sees as domination of the mainly black, Christian and animist southern Sudan by the Arabised Muslim government in the north.

"In order to make headway in the peace talks, the mediators pleaded with the negotiating parties, in particular the government side, to be flexible and show more commitment and seriousness," Mr. Onyanga said in a statement.

"After 10 days of intensive negotiations, mediators felt there was need for further consultations," Mr. Onyanga added.

Mr. Onyanga said another round of negotiations has been called for Sept. 5.

Diplomats said the two factions of the SPLA — one led by the movement's founder, John Garang, and another by Colonel Garang's former aide, Riak Machar — had pushed for self-determination for the south and also wanted religious institutions separated from the state.

The two positions were unacceptable to Khartoum's Islamic fundamentalist-backed government.

The rebels had demanded that Khartoum should at least agree to a referendum on southern autonomy, but the government of Lieutenant-

General Omar Hassan Al Bashir rejected this, saying Sudan was already a federal state.

On religion, Sudan's chief negotiator, Ali Al Hag, said the government saw no difficulties because southerners would be allowed freedom of worship despite a government bias towards Islam.

He added Khartoum had shown willingness not to apply strict Muslim laws to southerners.

"It's the same old argument, said right positions and so in the end nothing was achieved," one Western ambassador said.

Another diplomat described the talks, opened by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi on July 19, as a complete waste of time.

Mr. Onyanga said negotiators welcomed unilateral ceasefire declared by the Khartoum government but expressed deep concern that neither party had bothered to honour it.

The 11-year conflict has killed some 500,000 people, displaced many more and sent tens of thousands into exile.

The latest peace bid was held under the auspices of the Inter-Government Authority on Drought and Development

(IGADD) which groups Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and Somalia.

Sudan is Africa's biggest country, sprawling up the River Nile from the borders of Egypt to the heart of Africa.

Rebel troops fighting the government have returned relief supplies they had looted from a barge heading for war-affected areas in southern Sudan, a government official said in Khartoum.



MAJALI RETURNS: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who returned home on Saturday after attending the July 25 summit between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (see page one), is received upon arrival by Deputy Prime Minister Thawqan Hindawi (right) and Interior Minister Saleh Hamad (Petra photo)

Palestinian journalists fear ban on Al Nahar forerunner of crackdown

By Mariam M. Shablin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Restrictions imposed by the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA), that led to the closure of two Jerusalem-based publications are being described by some Palestinian journalists and human rights activists in the occupied territories as a violation of the freedom of the press.

"There have been cases of Palestinian journalists being harassed or pursued on several occasions," by the PNA said Bassem Eid, a Palestinian journalist who is one of few Palestinians to publish articles in left-wing Israeli newspapers. A columnist for the daily Al Nahar that folded Saturday on orders of PNA President Yasser Arafat, Mr. Eid said that the Palestinian journalists community was "bracing itself" for a battle for press freedoms with the new authority.

"This is the beginning and the war for press freedoms is part of the process. The new government comes from environments which are oppressive and undemocratic. Thus they have brought with them their experience of the Arab governments in their dealings with the press," said Mr. Eid

who is also a field coordinator for B'tselem — an Israeli human rights organisation that gathers information in the occupied territories.

"We hoped this would not happen but we almost expected it," said Mr. Eid after the Al Nahar was ordered closed by the PNA Friday.

"We will fight this closure order on all the levels," said Ikram Shaaban, Al Nahar journalist and director of distribution. "Al Nahar is published in Jerusalem and Jerusalem is not under the PNA jurisdiction yet — thus Mr. Arafat may confiscate our paper in Gaza and Jericho — but he won't be able to do so in Nablus and Ramallah nor in Jerusalem," Ms. Shaaban said, in a telephone interview.

The closure order, say Palestinian journalists, will only increase sales of the paper — since "Palestinians are traditionally opposed to any existing authority."

At the moment there are only two Arabic language dailies in the occupied territories and self-rule areas. The two, Al Quds which was traditionally seen as close to the PLO and Al Nahar which was seen as closer to Jordan, are both threatened by the PNA, according to journalists from

the occupied territories.

To counter the relatively independent line of the existing press which also includes almost a dozen weeklies, a new daily, Al Aqsa, has been founded under the direct auspices of the PNA.

"The Al Aqsa is the mouth piece of the PNA. It is like a government statement every morning," said Mr. Eid. "We don't mind if such a newspaper exists but not to replace all the other papers."

"Even Al Quds has been under PNA pressure and the authorities are trying to squeeze it out of circulation," said Ms. Shaaban.

To counter the closure of Al Nahar for what the PNA describes as contradicting "the national interest of the Palestinian people," Al Nahar and Al Quds plan an aggressive marketing campaign in the occupied territories.

"We have decided on a distribution and marketing campaign that will include Gaza as well," said Ms. Shaaban who was recently appointed director of distributions in addition to her job as reporter.

Palestinian journalists say they will urge Palestinian human rights organisations as well as international non-

governmental organisations to pressure the PNA into a more "democratic" stand regarding press freedoms.

"We will use all methods to assure that we have a chance to live in the freedom we fought for so long," said Ms. Shaaban.

Several Palestinian weeklies were closed down by the Israeli authorities in the past, and now Palestinians fear that the Palestinian authorities will "merge the undemocratic tendencies of both the Arab governments towards their home press and the Israeli repression of Palestinian freedom of opinion," said Mr. Eid.

"We are getting ready for a parallel fight, the fight for independence and the fight for democracy."

The Paris-based press defence group Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders — RSF) protested on Friday against the ban.

"We are shocked by the unjustified measure taken against the daily Al Nahar... and demand it be rescinded," RSF said in a communiqué.

The measure also affected the weekly Akhbar Al Balad but RSF made no mention of that action.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yussef Islam stopped at Amman airport

AMMAN (AFP) — Britain's former pop star Cat Stevens, known as Yussef Islam since he converted to Islam, complained Saturday that border police had held him up for half an hour on Thursday before allowing the Muslim activist into the country. "They asked personal questions regarding my origin, name and my father's name and profession," Mr. Islam told AFP. Mr. Islam said he had turned down a police order to appear at the nearest police station within three days. But after contacts with a British vice consul, a police officer came to his hotel to apologise over the case of "mistaken identity," the former singer said. The official extended a "warm welcome." Mr. Islam said his only similar experience was when he arrived in 1988 with one of his children at Tel Aviv airport to celebrate the feast of Al Adha with the Palestinians. He was now in Jordan, accompanied by his wife and their five young children, for five days of tourism and seeing friends. Mr. Islam visited Amman several times during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, when he also travelled to Baghdad and Riyadh, as part of efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He is a member of the London-based British Muslim Conference and the organisation Muslim Aid, which sends relief aid to Afghanistan, Bangladesh and several African countries.

Chinese PM meets Egyptian defence minister

HONG KONG (AFP) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng said Friday Beijing wants to develop all-round cooperation with Egypt. Xinhua reported. Mr. Li made the remarks during a meeting with visiting Egyptian Defence Minister Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, who is also commander-in-chief of his country's armed forces. China's official news agency said in a dispatch monitored here. The two men expressed the hope that their talks would enhance cooperation both in the military and economic fields, the report said, without giving details. Also present at the meeting was China's Minister for National Defence Chi Haotian, Xinhua said.

Turkey changes tactics against rebels

ANKARA (R) — Turkish security forces, fighting Kurdish rebels in the southeast, are adopting new tactics to disrupt the guerrillas' supply routes. Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Dogan Gures said on Saturday. "We have changed the concept. We are now implementing area domination. There is no advancing on the terrorists," Anatolia news agency quoted Gen. Gures as saying. "We now apply 'let them stay without logistical support — go hungry and surrender' strategy," Gen. Gures told members of the security and judicial correspondents' association. Gen. Gures said the new tactics were forcing the separatist rebels of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) to surrender in large numbers. He gave no figures.

Turkey to make Gallipoli green again

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish political and business leaders are embarking on a project to plant millions of trees in the Gallipoli peninsula after a huge fire devastated the area this week. "The hills, now shrouded with sorrow, will be green again with the use of advanced technology," President Suleyman Demirel was quoted as saying by the Anatolia news agency after touring the World War I battlefield on Saturday. The project to take 10 years, Mr. Demirel said. Turkey's popular Milliyet newspaper has started a campaign to collect funds to restore the forest and fire-damaged war cemeteries. The forest fire, which was brought under control on Wednesday, consumed 3,000 hectares of pine forest in an area made famous by a costly allied failure to capture the Dardanelles Strait. The flames damaged some of the 50 military cemeteries and memorials in the area where Ataturk, founder and first president of the Turkish republic, led the Turks' successful defence against an invasion force composed mostly of Australian and New Zealand troops under British command in 1915-1916.

Kuwait, U.S. to stage war games

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — U.S. and Kuwaiti forces are to hold joint military exercises near the Iraqi border on the fourth anniversary of Iraq's invasion of the emirate. Kuwaiti military sources said Saturday. Giant U.S. B-52 bombers are to take part in the exercises on Tuesday, the sources said. Live ammunition was to be used in the land manoeuvres in the Adri Al Khilla border zone. The sources gave no details on how many soldiers would be involved. The Kuwaiti and U.S. armies have held regular joint exercises since the two countries signed a defence pact in September 1991, following Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war. Iraqi troops stormed Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990 but were driven out by a U.S.-led coalition seven months later.

Arson attack on Turkish family's house

SINZIG, GERMANY (AFP) — Arsonists set fire to a house lived in by a Turkish family overnight in Sinzig, in western Germany, but nobody was hurt, police said on Saturday. Police said the building was empty at the time of the attack, around 3.15 a.m., because the family was away on holiday. A passer-by called the fire service after seeing the flames. He told police he had seen two young people running away. Investigators said the arsonists appeared to have broken a window with a stone and then hurled a burning object into the house. Structural damage was estimated at over \$30,000. Police were unable to determine whether the attack was motivated by a settling of scores or by a racist attack, such as those that have left about 20 dead in the country since January 1992.

Spoonbender turns to art

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli psychic Uri Geller, who has captivated audiences around the world with mysterious feats of spoon bending and watch stopping, has turned his mind to art.

Mr. Geller, who features in a new film about his life by British movie director Ken Russell, has covered his cherished Cadillac with 5,000 pieces of contorted cutlery — some apparently once used by famous personalities such as scientist Albert Einstein.

The artwork, he says, is a symbol of peace — particularly in the turbulent Middle East.

"One morning I woke up and I had this vision of my Cadillac riddled with bent spoons and forks," said the 48-year-old Geller, who lives in Britain.

"We are trying to show peace and the only way we can show peace, excluding the fact that the car has 'peace' written on it, is to bring Arabs and Jews together," he added.

The new art work is a joint effort.

Mr. Geller said he bent about 20 per cent of the cutlery with brain power. Israeli artist Avi Pines, 31, bent the rest with his hands and spent six months attaching all of them to the 1976 shiny black car.

On Thursday, after shipping the car from Britain, they unveiled their handiwork on the patio of the Israel museum.

The car will be parked there for two months during the showing of Mr. Russell's "mindbender," a movie about Mr. Geller which has its world premiere at the

museum on Wednesday.

Movie posters will invite audiences to bring their broken watches. Mr. Geller said he himself appears at the end of the film to fix their watches, using his mind. He said 100,000 people called in once when he did the stunt on U.S. television.

Mr. Geller, who grew up poor in Tel Aviv, bought the expensive car in 1976, as a symbol of his new-found international success.

"In the end hopefully we will auction it," he said. "The money will go to a good cause. I'd like it to go to both Jewish and Arab children. That's our dream."

Passers-by could not help but smile as the car got its own first public showing at the museum in occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Pines, a street vendor when Mr. Geller discovered him in Tel Aviv three years ago, sculpted some of the spoons into religious shapes — a Jewish star of David, a Christian cross, a Muslim crescent and one shaped like a Buddha.

The word "peace" is carved into other spoons in several languages, including Arabic and Hebrew.

Some of the spoons have a special story. British schoolchildren donated 1,000 of them. Others belonged to Einstein, boxer Mohammad Ali, actress Whoopi Goldberg and Artist Salvador Dali.

Mr. Geller said one was a 500-year-old spoon from Tibet. The car's hood mascot is an ancient crystal ball.

The pair hope to show the car at other museums before auctioning it for charity.

Hizbollah looms into focus after bombings

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Iranian-backed Hizbollah, Israel's long-standing foe in South Lebanon, has also become the West's public enemy number one following devastating bomb attacks in Buenos Aires and London for which it was blamed.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made a blistering attack on the Lebanon-based organisation, which is financed by Iran and supported politically by Syria, the main foreign power-broker in Lebanon.

"Groups like Hizbollah that wreak havoc and bloodshed must be defeated," Mr. Christopher told a U.S. House Committee on Thursday.

"And Hizbollah's patron, Iran, must be contained," he added.

Officials in Washington and Tel Aviv say they are convinced that Hizbollah is behind acts of violence aimed at undermining the Middle East peace process.

But nobody has produced any tangible evidence against Hizbollah, which denied involvement in the July 18 bombing of a Jewish charity

in Argentina that killed at least 100 people and bomb attacks in London Tuesday and Wednesday that left 20 wounded.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told AFP during a visit to Cyprus that his country had "indirect proof" of Hizbollah's involvement in the bombings.

Hizbollah, the Party of God, has been led by Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah since 1992, when his predecessor Sheikh Abbas Mussawi was killed along with his son in an Israeli air raid.

It emerged as a force to be reckoned with after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, when several hundred Iranian Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) entered the eastern Bekaa Valley. There are now around 50 Revolutionary Guards there.

Hizbollah set up its base in Baalbek, alongside the Pasdaran, and gradually began attracting large numbers of Muslim fundamentalists who shared the same desire to crush the "Zionist enemy" in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

In 1985 Hizbollah began making headline news after the formation of a political leadership, the Majlis Al Shura, and the first attacks claimed by its military wing, the Islamic Resistance.

Western intelligence services accused Hizbollah of playing a major role in kidnappings of Americans and Europeans in Lebanon in the 1980s, but the movement always denied any links with the hostage-takers.

Over the years Hizbollah's operations have ranged from suicide car-bombings and large-scale guerrilla attacks to more recent deadly hit-and-run attacks on Israeli positions deeper within the "security zone."

In 1993, Hizbollah operations killed 26 Israeli soldiers — twice as many as in the previous year.

In recent weeks the guerrillas have also used more sophisticated weapons to strike at Israeli soldiers and their proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

According to unofficial estimates, Hizbollah has between 3,000-7,000 full-time guerrillas, but is capable of

mobilising many more volunteers.

In 1992 Hizbollah won a major political battle when eight of its representatives secured seats in legislative elections for the first time.

But last month Hizbollah was dealt one of its worst blows when 32 trainees were killed in an Israeli air raid which devastated a training base near the border with Syria in the Bekaa Valley.

Two weeks earlier Israeli commandos abducted from his Bekaa home Mustafa Dirani, a guerrilla chief close to Hizbollah, to obtain information about Israeli airman Ron Arad, whose plane was shot down over Lebanon in 1986.

Syria, which the United States is trying to woo back to peace talks with Israel, continues to support Hizbollah and rejects Washington's calls to disband the guerrillas.

The Lebanese government disarmed all militias after the 1975-1990 civil war, but maintains that the guerrillas have a legal right to fight Israeli occupation forces.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Fontaines on Heritage
18:30 News in French
18:45 Faith For River
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 You Bet Your Life
21:00 Soles Live
21:30 News in English
22:30 The House of Eliot
23:30 The Second Half

PRAYER TIMES

04:16 Fair (Guzer) Dala
05:47 Dhur
16:23 'Asr
19:40 Maghrib
21:09 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweilich, Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Sallie Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

American Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771251
Assumption International Church Tel. 624526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664193
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17/28
Agaba 28/35
Deserts 15/31
Jordan Valley 22/33
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 28, Agaba 35 Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Agaba 33 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakher Bilalci 664312
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul 898140
Dr. Issam Al Ammar 890540
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 780336
Al Asasa pharmacy 67055
Nairookh pharmacy 636730
Al Salam pharmacy 644945
Stameceni pharmacy 637600
Nairookh pharmacy 625672
Najib pharmacy 847652
ERBID:
Dr. Faysal Qadi 248743
Aqaba pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rafiq Attallah 984424
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630141
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 617101
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896990
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 611010
Abdali Telephone Repairs 611011
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Aila Intl. Airport 08-53200

Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 617101
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896990
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 611010
Abdali Telephone Repairs 611011
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Aila Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845945
Al-Musader Hospital 667221/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Adrafah 775112/6
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Aila Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)989990
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)987332
Im Al Nafesa Hospital (09)947100
AQABA:
Princess Reema Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Im Al Nafesa Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Reema Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532000

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:30 Bangkok (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Madrid (add) (RJ)
09:45 Agaba (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:30 Madrid (add) (RJ)
11:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:30 Paris (RJ)
12:30 Istanbul (RJ)
12:35 London (RJ)
13:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
13:30 Athens (RJ)
13:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:30 Vienna (RJ)
13:30 Rome (RJ)
13:30 Rome (add) (RJ)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
14:25 New Delhi (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:30 Anatolia (TK)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:25 Moscow (SU)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
03:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
07:45 Agaba (RJ)
11:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00 Rome (RJ)
12:30 Vienna (RJ)
12:30 Rome (add) (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Istanbul (RJ)
12:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
13:00 Athens (RJ)
13:30 Athens (RJ)
13:30 New Delhi (add) (RJ)
14:25 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
15:30 Riyadh (RJ)
15:30 Jeddah (RJ)
15:30 Damascus (RJ)
15:30 New Delhi (RJ)
15:30 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
15:30 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:30 Anatolia (TK)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:25 Moscow (SU)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:50 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 600/500
Banana 600/500
Banana (Mukammal) 600/500
Cabbage 140/80
Carrot 240/160
Cauliflower 180/100
Cucumbers (large) 100/30
Cucumbers (small) 200/120
Eggplant 160/100
Fig 300/300
Garlic 800/600
Grape 350/220
Lemon 950/650
Marrow (large) 150/100
Marrow (small) 300/200
Mushroom 140/7

High population growth rate required borrowing to meet needs — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's population growth rate, currently at 4.5 per cent and one of the highest in the world, is to blame for the Kingdom's past borrowing practices that were implemented to narrow the gap among different social classes and create jobs for the unemployed by promoting services and conducting infrastructure-building schemes, according to Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib.

Organised by the planning ministry in cooperation with the Amman office of the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the workshop is attended by participants from government agencies who will discuss demographic changes and their relation to development.

A report released by the National Population Commission last September predicted that Jordan's population would reach 5.2 million by the end of the century. It said the fertility rate among women aged 15-49 stood at 5.6 per cent, one of the highest among developing nations.

The government is currently preparing for a general census later this year which will provide detailed information on the population's basic needs, said Mr. Khatib.

Investment firm projects to hire 200 people from southern regions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Company for Investments and the Development of the Southern Regions of Jordan will soon start projects which will employ at least 200 people from the south of the Kingdom, according to Mazen Nasser, the company's general manager.

The JD 1 million company is completing feasibility studies on establishing plants for manufacturing glass containers, snap and uniforms, among others products, said Mr. Nasser in a statement Saturday.

Created upon directives from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, the newly-formed concern is owned by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), the Arab Potash Company (APC) and the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC).

According to Mr. Nasser, the JD 1 million capital will be increased as projects are implemented, adding that future schemes planned by the management would involve the employment of up to 1,000 people, primarily from southern Jordan.



Members of the General Union of Arab Writers Saturday convene at the Regency Adab magazine (Petra photo) Palace Hotel for a two-day symposium

Al Adab magazine marks 40 years on news-stands

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Adab magazine "was faithful to our Arab problems and crises at a time when many other Arab forums were funded by foreign agencies aiming at killing any attempt to build Arab minds," according to Ali Uqla U'san, president of the Arab Union of Writers in Syria.

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Arab literary magazine at a two-day symposium meant to clarify the monthly's role in Arab cultural life, members of the General Union of Arab Writers met at the Regency Palace Hotel Saturday.

During the opening session on Friday, Minister of Culture Jumaa Hammad addressed the gathering and asked, "where are the unity anthems and the one-nation mottoes?" Still he said, there is hope and those gathered should not fear the passing away of the giants of Arab poetry and literature because the Arab nation will certainly give birth to other giants.

Spanish T.V. team completes filming

Minister sees tourism as pillar of peace, security

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During a two-week period that witnessed Israeli officials meeting their Jordanian counterparts on Jordanian soil and the signing of the Washington Declaration between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a Spanish television team concluded its film making mission in the Kingdom with words of optimism and concrete plans from Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan.

"We have great and many challenges and opportunities, and we have to work fast with determination and proper planning to meet these challenges," said Dr. Adwan, during a video-taped interview with the Television Espanola (TVE) who were here to make a documentary programme on Jordan.

"I am very optimistic because so many possibilities are open for all parties in the region including Israel," Dr. Adwan added.

The minister stressed on the future of the tourism industry pointing out that it is essential not only to Jordan, but to the entire region, because "tourism is the main pillar for sustained peace and security," and "it fosters human understanding and interaction in the long run. By the same token, peace is the foundation for the development of the tourism industry which depends on the creation of an environment conducive to investment and development," added Dr. Adwan.

In addition to increasing the number of tourists in the region, the minister said, job opportunities are expected to multiply as is regional cooperation in the field of tourism marketing.

Arab engineers plan 2 meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive bureau of the Federation of Arab Engineers (FAE) Saturday opened a two-day meeting in Amman under the chairmanship of the federation's Vice President Hosni Abu Ghaida and with the participation of delegates from Jordan, Sudan and Iraq.

The delegates will work out arrangements for convening a meeting of the federation's higher council in Amman in September and pave the ground for a pan-Arab engineering conference to be held in Sudan in February 1995, said Mr. Abu Ghaida.

Refugee host countries agree to urge more concern for Jerusalem issue

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab countries hosting Palestine refugees concluded a week-long meeting in Damascus and have agreed to step up efforts at the international level to pressure Israel not to pursue its policy of changing the character of Jerusalem, according to the head of the Palestine Affairs Department Asem Ghosheh.

Mr. Ghosheh, who returned from the meeting Friday, said that delegates from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the Arab League said their governments would follow up this question particularly with the United States and Russia, the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace talks.

The Damascus conference, said Mr. Ghosheh, called on Arab states to adopt a unified plan that would secure continued material and moral aid to the Palestinian people, helping them to protect their homes, lands and other property and abort Israel's attempts to seize Arab-owned property.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma returns from Stockholm meeting
AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma returned to Amman Saturday after leading a Jordanian delegation to an international roundtable meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden, to discuss world social developments. The U.N.-sponsored meeting convened for four days during which participants focused on sustainable development and achieving a balance between resources and population growth.

Gas station fire injures youth
AMMAN (Petra) — A fire at an old gas station in Ras Al Ain district in Amman caused the injury of a 14-year-old boy and material damage, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). The boy tossed a lit cigarette near a fuel tank causing the fire to ignite and burst one of the station's fuel pipes.

Authorities seize unlicensed drugs
ZARQA (Petra) — Health and public safety

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Ali Abdul Sattar of Qatar at the South Theatre at 20:30.
- ★ Performance by the Dead Sea Fishing Club at the Artemis Theatre at 19:00.
- ★ Monodrama "Anthology of Martyrdom and Exile" at the Artemis Theatre at 21:30.
- ★ "Happy Prince" play at the Sound and Light Theatre at 19:00 p.m.
- ★ "Poems and Musical Dialogue" at the Garasia Theatre at 20:00.
- ★ Monodrama entitled "The Danger of Smoking" at Garasia Theatre at 20:45.

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "The Cowboys" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (128 minutes).

PLAY

- ★ Play in Arabic entitled "A Black Comedy" by Majid Al Qasas at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ "A one-painting exhibition" (about 15-metre long which took two years to complete) by Marwan Al Allan at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art (Tel. 695291).
- ★ One-day flower exhibition at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel (5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Chinese products at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The Family International Group sings songs of peace

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an atmosphere of gaiety, The Sound and Light Theatre lit up to the warmth and universal sounds of The Family International Group Thursday and Friday nights.



The family, as they like to call themselves, is a commonwealth of independent volunteer communities which believe that sincere and outgoing love towards fellow man/woman can provide the answer to the most complex problems of today.

Besides entertainment, the family's purpose is to convey a positive message. All their songs are sung with meaning, attracting listeners with catchy tunes and magical melodies.

"We are a volunteer group," Olfa Atalla, a Tunisian singer of the group, told the Jordan Times. The group, formed about 20 years ago, includes 3,000 members from all over the world. Twelve of them have been in Jordan for five months and they are the ones who took to the stage at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

دولت في ليبيا

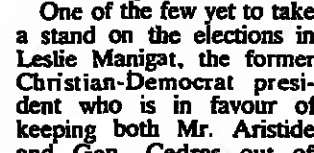
Mr. Marker said Mr. Aristide's letter was "central, was

He called the military leaders, who overthrew him in a September 1991 coup, arrogant and provocative in their continued defiance of the international community.

"This attitude has contri-

the assault provided further saber rattling to intimidate

But most political groups in Haiti have declared their intention to boycott the elections, no matter what form they take.



While the United States considers military action here, pro-Aristide groups have come out against an invasion and are counting on a popular uprising to overthrow the junta — a possibility.

approve in principle a proposed U.N. resolution the United States has presented to the U.N. Security Council which effectively would give the nod to a U.S.-led multinational force in Haiti.

Daily Telegraph quoted test tube fertility expert Dr. Peter Brinsden as saying that "time-warp" triplets would become more common as increasing numbers of babies are born from frozen

of an eight-women troupe touring the province charging customers 10 yuan (\$1.20) per ticket. This latest crack-down is just the latest in a series of on-again off-again

[illegible]

Jordan Times

Published by the Jordan Press Foundation
Amman, Jordan

Subscription rates: \$10 per year in advance.
Single copies: \$0.50 each.

Advertising rates: \$100 per line per month.
Phone: 06-4611111

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Foreign policy: In defence of Clinton's cautious line

By George McGovern

INNSBRUCK, Austria — The continuing criticism of U.S. President Bill Clinton for indecision in the conduct of foreign policy rests on the assumption that prompt, decisive action is a better course than delay and caution.

More often than is generally recognised, however, foreign policy has suffered from hurried judgments based on oversimplifications, inadequate information or lack of consideration for the consequences of intervention.

The Clinton administration's foreign policy is not beyond criticism. But simply calling for more "decisiveness" may make matters worse. Decisiveness is not a virtue if the decisions are wrong, nor is "indecision" a failing if the course ahead is not clear.

It has not been obvious what should be done in the violence-racked former Yugoslavia or in parts of Africa, or in Korea or in Haiti — to say nothing of Iran, Iraq, Eastern Europe, China and the former Soviet Union. But the Clinton administration has not gone to war in any of these places. Perhaps that de-

serves a measure of appreciation.

It should not be assumed that decisive intervention abroad is always preferable to deferred judgment. Consider the following examples of "decisiveness" in the formation of U.S. foreign policy:

Three months into his administration, President John Kennedy ordered the invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. It is now difficult to recall a more ill-conceived idea or one so poorly planned and executed. A little more ambivalence and deferred judgment could have served America well.

President Lyndon Johnson in August 1964 moved decisively to bomb Vietnamese naval facilities in the Gulf of Tonkin, allegedly in answer to unprovoked attacks on two American destroyers. This incident was used to secure quick congressional approval of a sweeping resolution that the administration later claimed represented a virtual declaration of war against North Vietnam.

It was only later that the Gulf of Tonkin incident seemed to have been manufactured by the White House as an excuse for the bombing attacks and the ill-advised Tonkin resolution, which I

and perhaps most members of Congress came to regret having supported.

President Ronald Reagan acted quickly and decisively in ordering troops into Grenada, supposedly to stop a Cuban or Soviet takeover. It later became apparent that there was no real prospect of a Soviet or Cuban threat to the island, nor to any possible American security interest. There are grounds for believing that the invasion of Grenada was ordered partly to take the spotlight off another "decisive" Reagan action, which had led to the deaths of more than 200 American marines in Lebanon a few days before.

President George Bush acted quickly and decisively against Panama by bombing it and sending in 25,000 soldiers because of President Manuel Noriega's alleged drug operations, his criticisms of U.S. policy and his possible threat to the Panama Canal. It has never been clear that this military action was justified.

Today's complicated post-cold war world calls not so much for snap judgments in foreign policy as for painstaking long-range efforts to deal with intract-

able global issues: the building of a more effective international collective-security capability (perhaps a U.N. police force and a strengthened world court); the reduction and control of armaments; the discipline of population growth; the protection of the environment; the repatriation or relocation of refugees; the alleviation of poverty, disease and illiteracy; and the establishment of constructive trade and investment policies.

The Clinton administration is at least partially attuned to these fundamental, long-range considerations; it was probably elected in 1992 partly because it understood that a strong economy and a healthy society are the pre-conditions for American influence and leadership in the world.

Like most Americans, I am distressed when I see on television Serbian shells being lobbed into the cities of Bosnia, or Haitian refugees trying to flee from their military dictators, or the people of Rwanda slaughtering one another. I suspect that no one is more anguished over these awful events than Bill Clinton. But an American president must look beyond his

anguish to the complexities of situations and to the limitations of U.S. power and responsibility.

I do not blame the president for believing that his first order of business is to deal with the guns and gangs of America before he goes after guns and gangs abroad. Neither do I blame him for resisting the implied suggestion of some of America's affluent allies who have long had universal health care that the United States defer such benefits for Americans in order to take the lead (and pay the costs) in settling other people's political and military affairs.

Recently, there was an especially ominous tone in the words of some commentators about the alleged danger posed by North Korea. Every day someone suggested that America must intervene to check a possible threat from Pyongyang. The visit of former President Jimmy Carter with Kim Il Sung seems to have quieted some of the interventionist talk.

It is difficult to imagine a more disastrous mistake than another American war in Korea. Nor would such a bloody costly venture hold public support.

Instead of backing into a corner where another war awaits, the United States should clearly offer to North Korea — if it agrees to abandon nuclear arms — diplomatic recognition, trade and modest international assistance.

And if Pyongyang gives proper assurances against further nuclear development, America should, at last, phase out its troops from South Korea. The South is fully capable of defending itself. The United States could back up such a defence by naval and air power off shore.

Let's not rush to war in Korea or Haiti or anywhere else simple to avoid "indecision." It is worth noting that the last time an American president intervened in Haiti to restore democracy and order, U.S. marines stayed for 19 years, with no apparent improvement in Haitian democracy.

The writer, a former U.S. senator from South Dakota and the Democratic nominee for president in 1972, is currently a guest professor at the University of Innsbruck. This comment is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

By Dusan Stojanovic
The Associated Press

BELGRADE — Bosnian Serbs hope that by rejecting an international peace plan they can drive a wedge between Russia and the West and retain most of the territory they now control.

But their latest attempt to test international resolve to end the bloody war in Bosnia could in fact escalate Europe's worst postwar conflict, engulfing other countries in the region.

Once international consensus collapses, Bosnian Serbs believe Radovan Karadzic and other Serb leaders will be in a better bargaining position to achieve a more advantageous peace deal.

Negotiators of the contact group comprised of the United States, Britain, Germany, France and Russia — Serbia's traditional ally — have described the plan as the last chance for peace.

But Bosnian Serb leaders, who have rejected all international proposals to date, do not seem to mind, even if this entails "a battle for life and death," as Mr. Karadzic pointed out.

The latest plan envisages the Muslim-Croat federation and Serb-controlled Bosnia joined in a confederation with existing borders under a central government.

That would thwart Serb ambitions to unite with Serb-held parts of Croatia and Serbia proper, the main component of what remains of Yugoslavia, in a "Greater Serbia."

Even before his self-styled Bosnian Serb assembly gave their inconclusive response, Mr. Karadzic said the map was unacceptable. It calls for Serbs to give up 21 per cent of the 70 per cent of Bosnian territory they now control.

What infuriates the Serbs even more is a provision of the plan that narrows a key northern corridor so that it could easily be attacked and occupied by Muslim forces. The latest map would also cut their territory into three enclaves Serbs say are not viable.

Serb nationalists, who still harbour dreams of uni-

M. KAHIL



Bosnian Serbs seek to drive wedge between Russians and the West

But in Moscow, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev voiced support for Russia's traditional allies.

"There is a positive element (in the Serb's stance)," Mr. Kozyrev told Russian Independent Television. He said the Serbs had the right to consider all elements of a peace package and not just the map.

Some opposition leaders in Serbia said Bosnian Serbs were again pulling the world by its nose.

"The Bosnian Serb leadership is ridiculing the whole world," said Vuk Draskovic, the leader of Serbia's largest opposition

Serbian Renewal Party.

A day after the Serbs failed to give a positive response, Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic suggested the Sarajevo government was no longer obligated to abide by its decision to accept the peace deal.

"Our unconditional agreement has ceased to be valid," he said.

"By playing a chess game against the world, they are playing with the destiny of the whole Serbian nation," he said.

A full-scale war would almost certainly lead to the withdrawal of U.N. peacekeepers from Bosnia and greater Western military involvement in the most volatile region of Europe.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry warned this week that if the peace plan was rejected, the Bosnian war could spill over to other

Balkan states.

"I believe and I fear it will be a more intense conflict with an increased danger of that conflict spreading," Mr. Perry said during a visit to Bulgaria.

Before he went to Geneva, Mr. Karadzic himself called on his people to brace for all-out war.

"If the international community launches an attack on the Serbs' existence, we (will) proclaim a state of war and total mobilisation... (and) bring the enemy to its knees so that we can get the peace we want."

Berlusconi scandal decree — behind the uproar

By Daniel J. Walkin
The Associated Press

ROME — Jailing suspects accused of non-violent crimes when trial could be months or years away might seem unduly harsh, even a violation of civil liberties.

But rather than being hailed for doing away with just such pre-trial detention, Premier Silvio Berlusconi's decree last week unleashed a political uproar, divided the cabinet and led to talk the government might fall.

What caused the stir was the decree's inclusion of Italy's highest-profile detainees: hundreds of politicians in jail on charges connected with the "tangentopoli" (kickback city) scandal.

Since the scandal broke in February 1992, prosecutors have implicated more than

3,000 political and business figures. The cases laid bare systemic corruption that for decades let politicians feast on billions of dollars at the public trough.

The news brought on a sort of national fury, and Mr. Berlusconi rode the public outrage to power in last March's elections.

Now, the decree is allowing many of them to walk out of prison.

Mr. Berlusconi, citing international criticism, said it was unfair to jail white-collar suspects before trial in a legal system where cases can drag on for years.

The Justice Ministry said Sunday 124 corruption suspects have been released, including some of the most notorious. The ministry said 1,165 suspects in all have been freed. More than 60 per

cent of the nation's 56,000 inmates are awaiting judgment, it added.

The question of civil liberties is not the most obvious point in a country where so many crimes go unsolved and corrupt officials reigned with impunity for so long.

"Behind this matter are serious problems in the Italian justice system," said Alberto Abruzzese, a sociology professor at Rome University.

Only a small number of politicians charged in "tangentopoli" have been convicted, but prosecutors sent hundreds to jail under the pre-trial detention law.

The law allowed detention for those considered a risk to flee, tamper with evidence or go on with their crimes. In effect, prosecutors used the

jailings as tools to induce defendants to give evidence.

Critics suggest Mr. Berlusconi has other motives in striking the law.

"The government's objective was to disarm prosecutors' offices," Editor Eugenio Scalfari commented Sunday in the left-leaning Rome newspaper La Repubblica.

Mr. Scalfari's implication was that Mr. Berlusconi was trying to protect his friends.

The decree came less than a week after a court indicted Mr. Berlusconi's brother, Paolo, on corruption charges involving pension funds. Prosecutors also have been investigating members of the premier's corporate empire, Fininvest.

The decree also means prosecutors can't extradite from Tunisia former Premier Ber-

tino Craxi, who is wanted on a raft of corruption charges. Mr. Craxi and Mr. Berlusconi were friends in the 1980s, and the then-Socialist premier was credited with helping the industrialist build his television empire.

Mr. Scalfari asked rhetorically: Would Mr. Craxi have spilled the beans about Berlusconi if extradited?

The way Mr. Berlusconi went about the reform — imposing a decree rather than introducing a bill in parliament — also raised eyebrows. Parliament reviews decrees after three months.

Until jumping into politics this year, Mr. Berlusconi was a highly successful corporate titan used to making single-minded decisions. That approach doesn't work so well in politics.

The political war over the

decree heated up Sunday. Mr. Berlusconi demanded that Interior Minister Roberto Maroni resign or apologise for his comments in newspaper interviews. Mr. Maroni said he was "fooled" by his fellow cabinet members, and led to believe the worst corruption defendants wouldn't be released before signing off on the decree.

Umberto Bossi, leader of Mr. Maroni's Northern League Party, rejected the demand and called on Mr. Berlusconi to withdraw the decree.

National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini, whose part is in Mr. Berlusconi's coalition and is usually his stalwart supporter, said the decree would not stand.

Nevertheless, "I'm still convinced everything will work out."

دليل في ليبيا

us line

Instead of backing me corner where another awaits, the United States should clearly offer North Korea — if it agrees to abandon nuclear armaments — diplomatic recognition, trade and modest international assistance.

And if Pyongyang proper assurances, agreement, America should, fast, phase out its troops from South Korea. To South is fully capable of defending itself. The United States could, in such a defence by naval or air power, not show.

Let's not rush to war. Korea or Haiti or anywhere else simple to avoid this. It is worth noting that the last time an American president intervened in Haiti to restore democracy and order, U.S. troops stayed for 19 years, with apparent improvement in Haitian democracy.

The writer, a former U.S. senator from South Dakota and the Democratic nominee for president in 1972, is currently a guest professor at the University of Innsbruck. This comment is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

By G. H. Jansen

History provides ample explanation why a huge wave of people is surging out of Rwanda and threatening to sweep over and swamp "drown" the next-door neighbours. Around a million persons are involved. The numbers are explained by the fact that Rwanda and its twin territory Burundi (not long known as Rwanda Urundi) are the most densely populated areas in Africa. And this demography in turn was the product of the area's topography, neither desert nor tropical forest but high, open, hilly country sustaining agriculture and the raising of cattle.

Which led to a feudal social system based on a racial divide: the peasants and herdsmen, eighty-five per cent of the population, belonged to the Hutu tribe, short, stocky and Negroid. The landowners were Tutsis, tall and sometimes very tall, lighter skinned and with fine Hamitic features. The Tutsis or Watusi migrated into the area four to five centuries ago and became the feudal overlords of the down-trodden Hutu serfs.

When the Kaiser's Germany appropriated the area during the imperialist carve-up of Africa at the end of the last century, it retained the feudal structure because it was convenient to rule through existing rulers; and the Belgians did the same when they succeeded the defeated Germans in 1919. The Belgians, who were trustees of the League of Nations and then the United Nations, were so paternalistic that they kept the whole country under curfew for years on end and not because of unrest but, as they thought, because it was good for the inhabitants to go to bed early. It was only in 1959-60 that the Hutus in Rwanda challenged Tutsi domination so that when independence came in 1962, and with it democracy, the Hutu majority in Rwanda displaced the Tutsi ruling minority, killing 100,000 of them in the process. In Burundi in 1972 the opposite happened, the Tutsis being better placed



An elderly Rwandan man hit by cholera sits next to hundreds of dead bodies in a refugee camp, north of Goma (AFP photo)

A land where angels fear to tread

there because they controlled the army through Tutsi officers.

They decided to "solve" their Hutu problem by eliminating Hutus — to massacre every Hutu with education, a government job or money. In three months in Burundi more than 200,000 Hutus were slaughtered, without benefit of bullet. So when the

world today expresses horror at the massacre of half a million Tutsis by the Hutu militia, it is being both naive and ill-informed because mass killings are, as we have seen, a well-established practice in Central Africa, and the Hutus are motivated by not decades but centuries of persecution and oppression. Which explains but does not excuse

the killings. To take sides in such a situation is a foolish business because today's killers are yesterday's victims and vice-versa.

The present cycle of violence began on April 6 when the presidents of both Rwanda (a Hutu) and of Burundi were killed in a mysterious air crash, widely believed to be an assassination plot. In revenge for the

killing of "their" president Hutu militia in Rwanda began killing Tutsis. At this point the problem of the Tutsis in Rwanda seemed to have been solved because after the post-assassination killings there were said to be few Tutsis left in Rwanda. That would have been a final solution, which, in a way, was all very well and good. But then just at that

point a new and complicating factor came on the scene from Uganda. This was the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) which, just to confuse matters, is organised and led by Tutsis who fled into Uganda in the 1960s and 1970s but many of whose soldiers are Hutus, "moderate Hutus", it is said.

Though this is a well

trained and disciplined force which has behaved itself, mostly, so far, the ordinary Hutu was not prepared to believe that, with Tutsi officers the RPF was not going to take revenge for the killing of Tutsis that followed the assassination of the Hutu president. So when the RPF militia advances the Hutu people — and there are a lot of them in Rwanda — flee before them. And since the RPF has moved north to south right across the country, most of the population of northern and central Rwanda, in a huge human wave, is now backed-up against the frontier with Zaire or is just over it inside Zaire around the town of Goma.

The commander of the RPF, a Tutsi, has promised a ceasefire after the victory he has achieved. He has appointed Hutus as both president and vice president in what he hopes will become a government of national unity. But will he and his Tutsi officers be believed by the Hutu population, which is now gripped en masse by panic fear of their ancient feudal masters and former rulers, and despite all their fine words?

It is difficult enough to try and explain the Rwandan situation — with Hutus chasing Tutsis and Tutsis chasing Hutus — but dealing with it, especially by outsiders, is unimaginable. Yet the French, rushing in where angels fear to tread, have created a "safe haven" in south-western Rwanda. Will they defend it if it is attacked by the RPF or by Hutu militias, or would the attackers be Tutsis?

The only sure and lasting solution for Rwanda has to be based on Hutu and Tutsi trust in each other. The RPF is attempting to achieve that but the history of Rwanda does not encourage such a possibility.

World's biggest flood of refugees seeks peace

By Lawrence Bartlett
Agence France Presse

METANGULA, Mozambique — By train, bus, boat and bicycle the world's biggest flood of returning refugees is making its way back to the world's poorest country for Mozambique's first elections after decades of war.

Along with villagers who remained in the country, they are unanimous on what the hope to achieve from the unprecedented experience of voting: "Peace."

"I'm very happy to be back," said Mohammad Adam, 68, who fled with his two young children by dugout canoe across Lake Malawi in 1983 as attacks by rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) drew closer to his village.

"I want to vote and choose a president and have peace."

He was picked up from Likoma Island off the Mozambique shore and taken the rest of the 80 kilometres across the Great Rift Valley lake to Malawi by boat.

After years in a refugee camp at Nkhata Bay, he recently returned to this village on the lakeshore of northern Niassa province in a boatlift organised by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The UNHCR says the repatriation of some 1.7 million Mozambican refugees from neighbouring countries is the biggest such operation it has ever handled — dwarfing the 390,000 who returned to Cambodia.

It is trying to get most of them back in time for elections scheduled for October in the wake of a peace agreement signed by the government and RENAMO in Rome in October 1992.

The two sides fought a 16-year civil war based on the heels of an anti-colonial struggle against Portugal which ended in independence in 1975, bringing to power the then-Marxist Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO).

There are few signs of the approaching elections in Metangula, apart from a group of girls dancing to a rhythmic drumbeat in the shade of a spreading tree near the white sand of the lakeshore, singing the praises of President Joaquim Chissano in preparation for a competition.

But consciousness of the elections is strong in a country emerging from repressive

colonialism and nearly 20 years of one-party rule.

Asked how he would vote, Mohammad Adam pointed out firmly that his choice was a secret which he was entitled to keep to himself.

Voter education in a country which has never before had an election is carried out along with registration by mobile brigades in even the most remote areas of this huge southeast African nation of some 15 million people.

In the village of Makasungulo some 40 kilometres east of Lichinga, capital of Niassa province, a mud hut sports a bright banner proclaiming it a temporary voter-registration centre.

Although not far from the capital, the village lies in the middle of a vast plain ringed by distant mountains and can be reached only down a rough track through grass twice the height of a man.

Outside the hut, villagers line up at a roughly-hewn wooden table to present identity documents, some dating from the colonial era and worn almost to illegibility.

If they have no documents, two witnesses have to vouch for them before their picture is taken with a Polaroid camera and they are presented with a voter registration card.

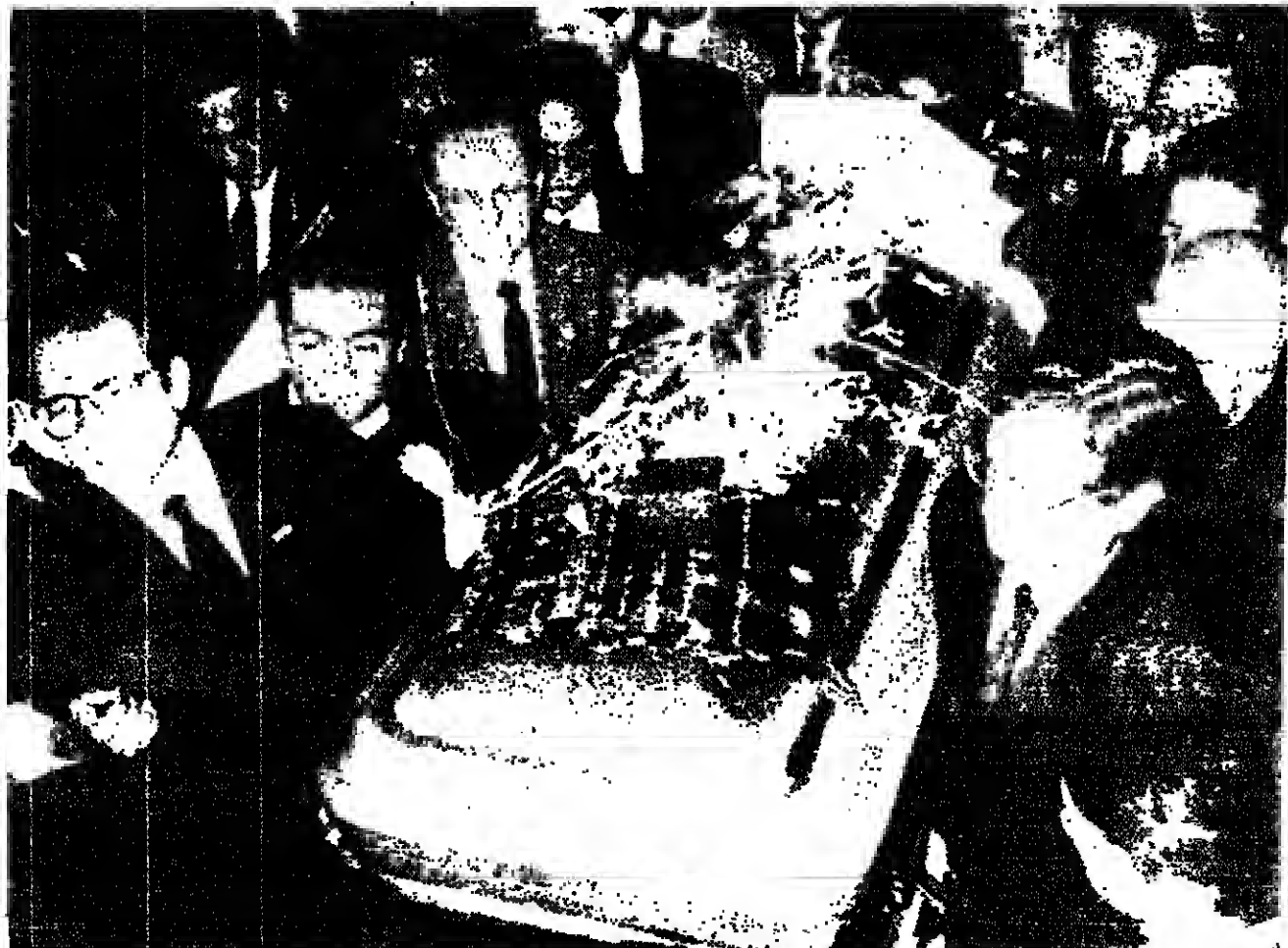
Isaac Matrese, 27, a village teacher, told AFP he was "very happy because it is the first time in my life I have registered to vote and the first time in my life I have known peace."

"The people have been living in fear. Now it is peace that is most important and I hope the elections will help peace continue."

Pressed on what else he hoped for from the elections, he said: "Later we would like to improve health and education and have a grinding mill, but basically it is peace we want."

Theresa Asima, who is not sure of her age but is the mother of three young children, also said she wanted peace and appeared surprised at the idea that she could wish for the vote to change anything more in her hard life.

The World Bank calls Mozambique the world's poorest country in terms of per capita GDP, and the World Programme (WFP) has this year been helping to feed around 1.9 million people.



Ernesto Zedillo (left), coordinator of the political campaign of Luis Colosio for the Mexican presidency helps carry his casket March 24. Colosio was assassinated at a campaign rally and Zedillo is considered to be one of the front-runners for the candidacy of president (AFP photo)

Suspensions linger in Mexico over presidential hopeful's murder

By Eduardo Garcia Aguilar
Agence France Presse

MEXICO CITY — With Mexico's presidential election set for next month, the March murder of ruling party candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio remains a source of shadowy conspiracy theories and bitter controversy.

Miguel Montes, the special prosecutor investigating Colosio's killing, announced Tuesday he had wrapped up his investigation and found that Mario Aburto, 23, acted alone when he shot Colosio on March 23 after a campaign rally in the northern border city of Tijuana.

In doing so, Mr. Montes rejected his own early hypothesis that Colosio had been the victim of a plot and that Aburto had been aided by bodyguards whom the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) hired as security for the event.

The PRI, which has ruled Mexico since 1929, and five other parties represented in the Chamber of Deputies re-

jected Mr. Montes' final conclusion as unacceptable. Several deputies alleged that a cover-up was in place.

Rumours have flown since shortly after Colosio's killing that an old guard in the PRI opposed to democratic reform had been behind the shooting. The theory is widely believed in Mexico though no real proof has surfaced to support it.

But videotapes made by police and amateur photographers have appeared to show at least five former policemen hired as security helping Mr. Aburto get near the candidate. All were imprisoned for a time, and three remain in jail with their lawyers pressing for their release.

The Mexican press and some international reports have hammered on the numerous contradictions or inconsistencies in the case, especially the trajectory of the two bullets fired by the assassin or assassins and their calibers.

Witnesses have given contradictory accounts of what

happened, there has been talk of a mysterious, politically conservative group of former police recruited for the rally called "Tucan," and questions about the actions of Colosio's top staffers at the rally.

In the end, Mexican media treated Mr. Montes' final report with scorn, using such words as "cover-up," "manipulation" and "scandal."

Even Colosio's replacement as the PRI's presidential contender, his former campaign manager Ernesto Zedillo, announced Wednesday that the PRI would name a commission of experts to pursue its own inquiry.

But that sounds similar to a "Commission of Citizens" named by President Carlos Salinas that was made up of non-partisans such as journalists and lawyers.

The panel spectacularly dissolved itself shortly after it was formed, complaining bitterly that it had not been given access to information from the official inquiry and could not do its job.

A legislative commission

was then created, but it was later quietly disbanded without any official release of information concerning what it had done.

Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, the conservative National Action Party's presidential candidate for the August 21 vote, has described Mr. Montes' report as "harmful to public opinion."

And the press has been running stories or other tragedies for which official and government explanations were widely disbelieved.

There was the killing of Guadalajara archbishop Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas, who authorities say was shot to death during a confrontation between rival drug gangs in May 1993; the assassination of journalist Manuel Buendia in 1984 and what has been described as an "erroneous" shootout between the army and judicial police in November 1991 in the state of Veracruz that left seven dead.

The drug traffickers they were pursuing managed to escape.

Multiple cultures, pluralist development

By Yoro K. Fall

THE INCREASINGLY acute conflicts afflicting Africa, coupled with recent (global?) changes that the continent is generally forced to submit to, impose a new look at the link between culture and development there.

African societies have integrated a good many "modern" ideas and practices into their daily existence, their aspirations, their vision of the world and even into their languages. This reflects both the power of the dominant models of development and the diversity of the institutions that promote them, as much as the intrinsic openness of African societies to external influences. The desire for modernity is clearly manifest at state level, within national and international organisations, citizens associations and collective institutions, and at all levels of society.

This is why the most successful development experiences are characterised by a conjunction of external prompting and internal momentum. Private, public or family-run enterprises, the popular savings and credit systems known as "rotines", and even the more elaborate forms of industrial activity, for example, are strongly marked by cultural practices that ensure an equitable distribution of goods produced. The obligatory solidarity, community conscience and even the weight of kinship makes itself felt not only among the working classes of big cities, but also amongst the managerial sector.

Through recruitment procedures, the management of goods as well as human resources, in arbitration and the solutions reached to industrial disputes. Whence, even in the most successful development experiences, the perennial contradiction between the demands of competition and competitiveness, profitability or productivity that mark western societies and the traditional African tendencies of egalitarianism in the allocation of the means of production and the widespread distribution of consumer goods and profit.

Using the same logic, most of African conflicts can be explained by the cultural and social repercussions of ill-conceived development: by the extreme sensitivity to the inequalities between different social levels or ethnic groups that this engenders. This is further aggravated by the political manipulation of

these differences. These conflicts almost always reflect as much the ravages of exclusion and marginalisation as the disfunction of social equity.

In such a context, structural adjustment policies, and cuts in social investment only accentuate the ancient cleavages as well as the new ones, and multiply frustration. It could be considered that the exacerbation of political and social struggles in Africa today is an expression of the antagonism between the constraints imposed by the inequality of economic relations and the aspiration to develop in the broadest sense of the word.

This aspiration is part of African tradition, and is particularly intense among the new cultural and social forces — women and youth, who make up the vast majority of the population. At the same time it generates a dynamic from which no sector of the society is spared.

However, the continent is not one. The countries of black Africa are characterised by the cultural diversity and therefore the diversity of their traditions. Social diversity, cultural diversity: these two factors are the crux of any discussion on the perspectives for the Africa of the 21st century. This at a time when African societies are confronted by the challenges of social justice, rational management of the environment and the balance that must be struck between demographic growth and production.

It would seem that now and in the future development, like culture, must be both plural and pluralist. From now on, when speaking of Africa, it would be wiser to talk of cultures and styles of development, with each society creating its own path according to its own rapport between cultural and development.

This alternative approach, which treats each culture with equal dignity, both conserves and enriches human heritage by offering to all the means to participate in cultural production and to express their capacity for creation and progress.

Without doubt, we run the risk of losing the comfort and the mental habits of uniformity.

The writer is a Senegalese historian and member of the World Commission on Culture and Development. This article is reprinted from the magazine UNESCO Sources.

Economy drive — Kuwait-style

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis, who enjoy one of the world's most generous state welfare systems, will no longer be allowed the luxury of leaving their air conditioners going while on holiday abroad and expecting the state to pay the bills.

So said Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan in outlining plans to introduce charges for state services that are now free or heavily subsidised in the oil-producing emirate.

Sheikh Rodhan told Al-Sayassah newspaper Saturday he would announce in

October a list of state services to curb the budget deficit. "I cannot imagine how a family could travel abroad leaving its air conditioning devices working in the house to preserve the plants... those families ought to shoulder the expensive price for that," Sheikh Rodhan said.

Excessive use of electricity, which is subsidised will have to be paid for.

Moreover, Kuwaitis can no longer expect guaranteed state jobs.

"The state, no matter how large its financial capacities and regardless of its financial

situation, cannot absorb all of the national labour," Sheikh Rodhan said.

Telephone charges are also expected to go up for households with more than one telephone line.

It was not immediately clear if the plan included introduction of charges for health services, presently free of charge to all Kuwaitis and Gulf Arabs.

Sheikh Rodhan said low-income families would not be affected by the changes.

A state economic committee said recently the budget deficit would grow by almost

50 per cent by the year 2000 unless the state subsidies system was reformed.

The budget proposed for the 1994/95 fiscal year from July 1 would produce a deficit of 1.8 billion dinars (\$6.2 billion) compared to a projected deficit in 1993/94 of 1.22 billion (\$4.1 billion).

Sheikh Rodhan told parliament last week that among other proposals being studied was imposition of income tax.

Gulf war-related expenses, including repair of oilfields cost Kuwait more than \$30 billion.

Rays of growth shine on European vacationers

PARIS (AFP) — Europeans will return from summer holidays in a month's time to find that rays of strong economic growth have risen over their three main economies, in Germany, Britain and France, according to the latest figures.

Britain is expecting growth this year of about 2.75 per cent, France 2.0 per cent and Germany more than 1.5 per cent, statistics have showed.

The green shoots of recovery have long been announced, but yet to show in Britain and France, although in Germany they have burst through with astonishing speed.

The main unknown quantity, and threat to continuation of strong growth in activity, is the future of long-term interest rates.

Each country, too, has its own particular weakness. In Germany it is the high cost of production and the strength of the mark.

In Britain the threat in past recoveries has come from a propensity to import for consumption, resulting in a "boom and bust" cycle.

In France unemployment is high, and Prime Minister Balladur warned that public deficits must be reduced to avert an increase in interest rates.

In Britain official figures showed that the economy had grown by 0.9 per cent in the second quarter from the figure for the first quarter in the strongest quarterly performance on record.

It had also grown by 3.3 per cent from the figure for the quarter of last year, exceeding a growth rate of 3.0 per cent for the first time since the first quarter of 1989.

The government recently increased its figure for expected growth this year to 2.75 per cent from 2.5 per cent forecast initially.

At the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce economist David Coleman said that the target was now realistic.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke commented that he wanted to prevent the economy from falling again into a cycle of "boom and bust."

In the last 12 months industrial output had risen by 4.5 per cent, retail sales had risen by 4.0 per cent and exports by 9.0 per cent while the number of people without work had fallen by 270,000, he said.

Official figures published in France showed that French manufactured output had increased by 2.2 per cent in May from the figure in April.

The total amount of output has not yet recovered to the amount before the recession

India announces stern steps to reform loss-making state firms

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Saturday announced stern steps to reform loss-making state firms, telling them to employ fewer workers and modernise their technologies, officials said.

They quoted him as telling chief executives of state companies as saying the government would cut budgetary support to them.

Mr. Rao told them not to rely on "spoon-feeding" two weeks after he told a Congress Party rally state-run companies would have to perform or close.

Labour Minister Purno Sangma told the meeting that wage rises would be possible only if the number of workers shrank. "Wage revision should not impact in terms of increased unit cost of labour," he said, adding the government would not yield.

The entire wage structure has to be linked to productivity.

Public sector reforms are considered a tough political

challenge for Mr. Rao, who launched a radical economic reform programme in 1991. Surplus labour is a major issue in the companies, which have highly-organised labour unions.

Pranab Mukherjee, head of the government's Planning Commission, said state companies would have to fend for themselves by raising more funds from the market.

"A substantial portion of disinvestment should be reinvested in modernisation," he said. "If reform has one message, it is improvement of efficiency down the line."

The government has begun selling off minority stakes in some state-run companies as part of a partial privatisation programme.

Some 104 of India's 237 state companies lost 40 billion rupees (\$1.3 billion) in the 1992/93 (April-March) financial year.

Cumulative investments of 1,400 billion rupees (\$44 billion) yielded a post-tax profit of just 34 billion rupees (\$1

billion) in 1992/93. The chief executives wanted more autonomy for managers and less bureaucratic interference, which they said was necessary to make state companies perform better.

"Once capital outlays are approved for an enterprise, the raising of money from domestic resources could be left to these enterprises within the framework of the companies act," said Rajinder Singh, chairman of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

Mr. Singh accepted closure of unviable companies as inevitable. "The loss-making public sector enterprises will face closure if no feasible restructuring scheme to make it viable is devised," he said.

S.K. Chowdhury, chief of Coal India Limited, said state companies must be allowed to hire labour on contract, which is not allowed at present. He wanted wages to be linked to the performance of each company.

French aid to Africa to favour growth, jobs

ABIDJAN (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said Friday that his country's aid to west and central Africa would go in future to projects to create jobs and ensure long term growth.

"The normal role of donors is not to subsidise state budgets. The crisis had led us in this unfortunate direction. I would like French aid in future to priorities financing of projects that ensure long term growth and create jobs," he said in a speech to Ivorian business leaders.

The 13 west and central African members of the CFA franc zone devalued their currency by 50 per cent on Jan. 12, sending shockwaves through countries accustomed to the same parity since 1948.

For years, France stepped in to pay salaries of striking civil servants in countries whose economies were paralysed by the high value of the CFA franc, or came up with World Bank arrears at the last minute to save them from suspension.

Paris first warned CFA zone countries last September it would no longer prep

them up financially unless they signed accords with the International Monetary Fund and started reforming their economies.

Mr. Balladur said CFA countries must move away from dependence on aid and work to encourage private sector investment and greater integration with each other.

"Beyond this effort of economic recovery, you must also continue towards regional integration and the search for private investment," he said. "Much remains to be done but I am confident in the economic future of the franc zone countries."

Mr. Balladur said the French development bank, the Caisse Franchise de Developpement, would make available an extra 1.5 billion French francs (\$276 million) in 1995 for investment financing.

Mr. Balladur promised French support to guarantee regional financing to put to work some of the CFA that have flooded back into the region's banks since devaluation.

The west and central Africa CFA regions have pledged to work towards greater integration of their diverse economies into two blocs.

Filipino investments abroad surge 864%

MANILA (AFP) — Investments by Filipinos in other countries rose by 864 per cent in 1993 due to the liberalisation of foreign exchange regulations, the Philippine Central Bank statistics office has said.

Outward investments from the Philippines, both in stock portfolios and in capital, amounted to \$1.167 billion in 1993 compared to \$121 million in 1992, the Central Bank said.

This was attributed to the government's decision in September, 1992, to allow Filipinos to invest as much as \$1 million overseas without central bank approval.

Portfolio investments abroad reached \$1.061 billion while capital investments reached \$106 million in 1993 compared to \$115 million in portfolio and \$16 million in capital investments abroad in 1992.

The bulk of Filipino investment overseas went to the United States which received \$667 million in portfolio investments and \$6.19 million in capital investments.

In contrast, foreign investments in the Philippines amounted to \$2.59 billion in 1993, of which \$2.257 billion

went into portfolio investments and \$334 million went into capital investments.

The United States was the main source of this capital, bringing in \$1.49 billion.

Meanwhile, Philippine export earnings for the first five months of 1994 climbed 16.1 per cent on a yearly basis to \$4.96 billion despite the stronger peso.

Export receipts for the month of May likewise rose 16.1 per cent over the same period in 1993 to \$150.35 million and exceeded the previous month's level by 13.1 per cent.

The National Statistics Office did not give figures for imports, but these have traditionally outstripped exports. The cumulative trade deficit stood at \$2.477 billion by end-April, up 28.8 per cent over the comparable period in 1993.

Electronics and components continued to be the country's leading products, accounting for 25.4 per cent of total exports in May. This was followed by apparel and clothing accessories with 19.4 per cent.

The United States remained the country's biggest market.

Ukraine's parliament puts ban on privatisation

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's parliament voted Friday to put an immediate ban on privatisation until the assembly agreed on the system.

"We have to put an end to national, criminal privatisation, which is being conducted in the interests of a tiny number of people," deputy Vladimir Marchenko, a member of the Socialist Party, told the chamber.

Deputies voted 180 to 62 for a resolution halting all types of privatisation until parliament reassembles in September and decides which properties must remain in the state realm.

The resolution said the State Property Fund, which oversees privatisation, must "stop the conclusion of agreements as to buying and

selling and leasing with buy-out."

It ordered the government to draw up a list of enterprises that were not to be privatised "because of their national significance" — to include companies in the transport, energy, and communication industries.

The 19-point resolution called for more state control over the privatisation process, including regular reports to parliament from the prosecutor-general, police and security service.

It included a vote of no-confidence in the head of the State Property Fund, and ordered the mechanism by which foreign investors participate in privatisation to be reviewed.

The decision was certain to complicate a pledge by Presi-

dent Leonid Kuchma to introduce market reforms to boost Ukraine's collapsing economy. Mr. Kuchma this week met International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Michel Camdessus, who promised the IMF would work with the Ukrainian leadership on an economic reform programme that could open the way for \$4 billion in promised Western aid.

Ukraine's privatisation efforts have barely started more than 2½ years after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, lagging far behind neighbouring Russia.

Reform-oriented deputies said the resolution was a blow to market reforms and would hurt vital industries which need domestic and foreign investment to survive. Industrial output in Ukraine

declined 36 per cent in the first half of 1994 compared to the same period last year.

"The socialists and communists in parliament don't have some great model in mind for privatisation. They simply want to restrict and stop this process," said Volodymyr Lanoviy, an economist and former deputy prime minister.

"This act has pushed Ukraine's international authority still lower. Most of the parliament wants Ukraine to be isolated behind a fence, to create a communist heaven," he added.

But parliament chairman Oleksander Moroz, a socialist, said the resolution did not mean the end of privatisation, simply a means to inject some order into an unclear system.

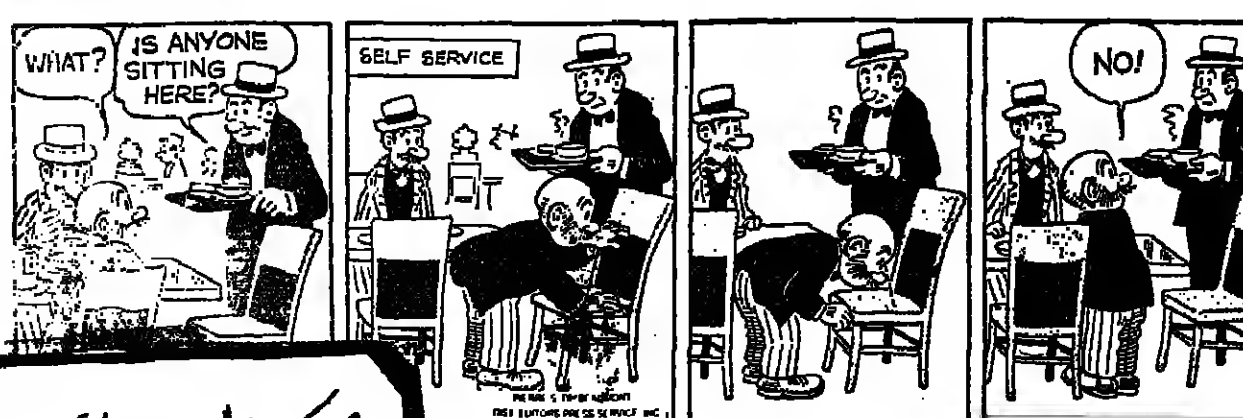
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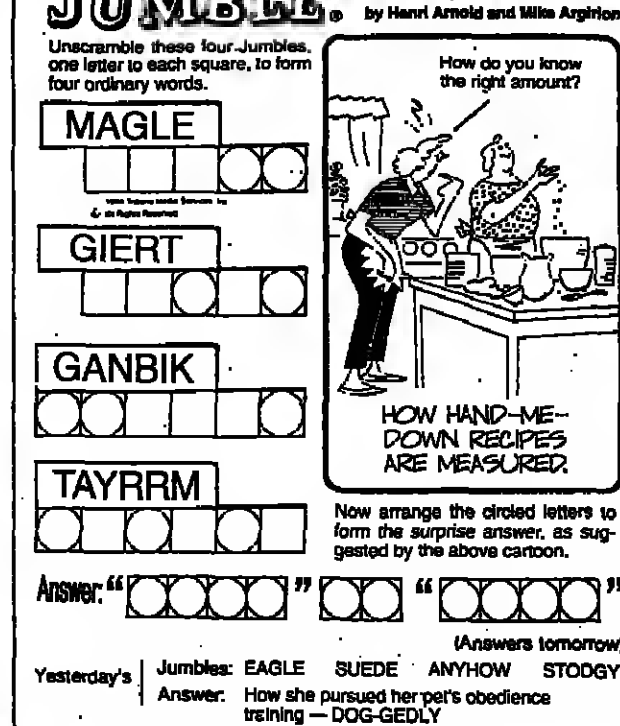
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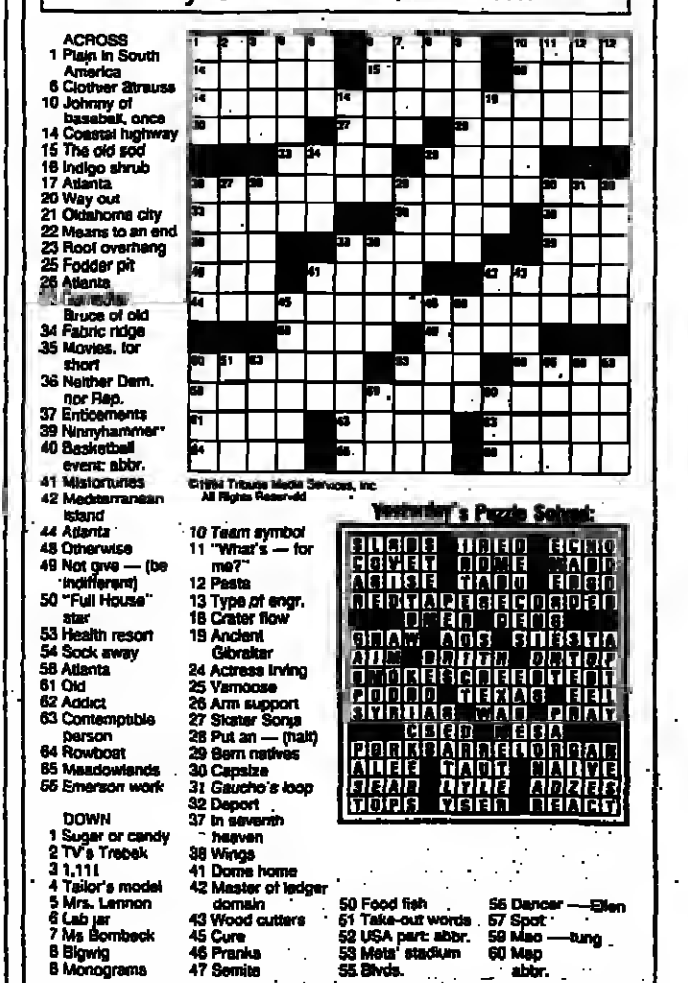
THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword



Iran 'ready' to cooperate against terrorism

(Continued from page 1)

countries, including the United States, Britain and France.

Tehran blamed the Majlis for a bomb attack at a shrine in Mashhad, eastern Iran, that killed 26 worshippers on June 25. The group has denied the charges.

Friday's Security Council statement, read by Jamsheed Marker of Pakistan, expressed condolences to the victims, their families and the governments of Argentina and Britain.

"The members of the Security Council demand an immediate end to all such terrorist attacks," the statement said.

"They stress the need to strengthen international cooperation in order to take full and effective measures to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of terrorism, which affect the international community as a whole," it said.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella accused Hizbollah, a Lebanese-based group, of the Buenos Aires bombing in a speech prepared for delivery before the Security Council.

But when he made the speech, Mr. Di Tella omitted that assertion, suggesting only that the attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association may have been planned from outside the country.

"We are not going to accuse anyone without evidence," Mr. Di Tella said in calling for "urgent and concerted action" by the international community to combat terrorism and racism.

He denied that Argentina was carrying out "any anti-Islamic campaign."

"We are fully confident that in a little more time, with the valuable cooperation of the governments that share our values of liberty and democracy, we can find the masterminds of this aberrant act," he said.

He recalled that Buenos Aires was the scene of a similar bombing March 17, 1992 that destroyed the Israeli embassy and killed 30 people.

Mr. Di Tella proposed that

the Security Council form a mechanism for international action so that perpetrators of such bombings are not able to use diplomatic immunity to go free.

Sources close to the investigation in Buenos Aires linked Iranian diplomats to the bombing, an allegation denied by the Iranian embassy.

Argentina has recalled its ambassador to Tehran and has twice summoned the Iranian ambassador to Buenos Aires to the foreign ministry for talks.

A news agency said an Argentine man was taken into custody Friday in connection with the bombing.

The government is now holding five people in the case, but none have been arrested or charged, with a crime.

The man was identified as Ariel Nitzchner, 28, owner of an auto repair shop outside Buenos Aires, the Diarios Y Noticias news agency said.

Police suspect the Renault traffic minivan used in the attack was loaded with explosives at the shop, the report said.

Before Friday's detention, federal police chief Adrian Pelacchi said that three Argentine men were being detained in connection with the sale and purchase of the minivan. An Iranian man was taken into custody for questioning Wednesday.

Information possibly implicating Nitzchner was obtained from one of the other suspects, identified in news reports as Carlos Alberto Tellerin, 28. Police source say Tellerin bought the minivan, Diarios Y Noticias reported.

Seven other people were being detained and released, including an Iranian woman taken into custody Tuesday night at Ezeiza international airport outside Buenos Aires and freed Thursday.

The Financial Times meanwhile revealed Saturday British police and the royal household were warned at the end of 1993 that the street used in a massive car bomb attack on the Israeli embassy Tuesday was a prime target.

China halts share issues, yet cites a rosy future

BEIJING (R) — Desperate

to stop a freefall on the Shanghai bourse, China's stocks agency halted all share issues this year but also began a "good news" drive to keep foreigners from taking their money and running.

China Securities Regulatory Commission Chairman Li Hongru issued the go-slow edict late Friday, the official People's Daily and other major Chinese-language papers reported.

It has crashed a staggering 80 per cent since peaking at 1,640.71 points on Feb. 16, 1993.

Yet in a Jekyll-and-Hyde twist reflecting fears of a worse market nightmare, the China Daily, published by the People's Daily in English and aimed chiefly at foreigners, contained no mention of the suspension of new shares.

Instead, it depicted Mr. Lu as waxing bullish about prospects for the share market experiments he oversees.

People's Daily said.

The decree aims to ease the anger of investors in Shanghai, where the index of Chinese-held class-A shares has fallen by five per cent and sometimes even 10 per cent a day in recent weeks.

The index dived another 2.19 per cent on Friday to a record low close of 328.84 points, only slightly better than the all-time intra-day low of 321.23 set in the morning.

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Oman sets up investment fund with British equity

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The

Gulf state of Oman has set up its first investment fund with British equity and is studying an application from Japanese companies for a similar project, Omani bankers said Friday.

The Oryx fund has a capital of 20 million riyals (\$52 million) and has just started to trade its shares in Muscat and London.

It is the first international fund to be traded in the Omani market as the government considers it a foreign venture because it does not have a stake in it and it is not governed by Omani laws, a bank manager told AFP by telephone from Muscat.

"I think it is a major step towards the internationalisation of the Muscat stock exchange," he said.

The Omani private sector owns 51 per cent of Oryx, which was established in Muscat at the request of a group of British companies seeking to take advantage of improved investment laws in Oman following large-scale economic reforms.

The remaining stake is held by British and other Western investors.

Oryx, which has been fully subscribed, began trading last week and strong demand has pushed up the price of its share to 1.1 riyals (\$2.86) from one riyal (\$2.6). Bankers expect further increases in coming weeks.

Oman embarked on reforms three years ago to offset a decline in oil prices and diversify its economy. The reforms cover privatisation, improvement of the investment atmosphere and opening up its stock market.

Officials said last week the drive would enable the private sector to play a leading role in the economy after decades of government monopoly.

They said emphasis would be given to creating new ventures by the private sector as the number of major public

institutions is limited.

"The government is considering a request from Japanese companies to set up an investment fund similar to the Oryx," a banker said, asking not to be named.

"I think there will be a positive response but the government prefers to wait and see how the Oryx works before endorsing other foreign funds. According to my information, the requested fund is bigger than the Oryx," he added.

Another joint venture was also set up with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this year with a capital of 30 million riyals (\$78 million).

Both Oryx and that fund will invest in projects covering industry, farming, tourism, communications and other sectors. Oryx's activities will be limited to Oman, which will embark on its fifth five-year development plan in 1996.

The fourth plan has achieved its targeted growth rates although economic reforms were slow in its early stages, officials said.

From 7.6 per cent in 1991, the Gross Domestic Product in the non-oil sector surged by 12 per cent in 1992 and nine per cent in the first half of 1993, they said.

In a report from Muscat Friday, the UAE semi-official daily Al Itihad said the establishment of Oryx had boosted activity in the already busy Muscat stock exchange, where nearly 65 banks and companies trade their shares.

During the week ending Thursday, turnover hit a record 3.9 million riyals (\$10.1 million) and the 100-point stock index rose to 134 points, its highest level since the official floor was opened in 1989.

Turnover in 1993 soared by 66 per cent to \$182 million from \$109.2 million in 1992. Bankers attributed the growth to strong performance of trading institutions

Baring Securities rates AFM high

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A respected London-based international investment consultancy has given high marks to the Amman Stock Market (AFM) describing it as relatively sophisticated and well-managed despite its small size.

Baring Securities Limited said in a report released last week that the AFM was relatively cheap by current emerging market values and would benefit from a peace settlement in the Middle East.

The report, excerpts from which were carried by the Associated Press-Dow Jones service, said the shares at the AFM were trading at around 17 times 1994 earnings, and at about 13 times if distorting factors are excluded.

The report came against a dramatic recovery in the AFM after more than four months of stagnation during which prices saw a decline of up to 25 per cent since the beginning of the year. The drop was attributed mainly to uncertainties of economic benefits for Jordan from the Middle East peace process, movement of capital from the trading floor to fresh issues and withdrawal of part of foreign capital from the market.

Jordanian stocks were seen to be on the road to recovery with the dramatic progress made in the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations in the peace process. Prices shot up by nearly seven per cent in five days of trading two weeks ago, and latest indications are that the upward trend is likely to continue.

Baring Securities Limited is a London-based firm whose advice is taken seriously by international investors.

The firm's report on Jordan, which was drawn up by analysts Angus Blair and Karen Bradley, notes that Arab-Israeli peace initiatives are already stimulating local

demand, and increasing foreign investment along with good economic fundamentals should drive the market ahead.

Further liberalisation of the financial infrastructure is planned and the government is committed to encouraging foreign investment, the analysts point out, adding that they expect the Jordanian economy to register a six per cent growth in 1994 and seven per cent in 1995.

At the end of 1993, the total capitalisation of the companies listed in the organised share market stood at around JD 3.4 billion at the end of June 1994 compared with JD 2.27 billion at the end of 1992 and JD 1.69 billion at the end of 1991.

The industrial sector accounted for JD 1.66 billion, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 1.42 billion, the services sector with JD 670 billion and the insurance sector with JD 79.41 million, according to a summary released by the AFM on market performance during the first half of this year.

The Baring report notes that the market capitalisation was on the lower end of the emerging markets scale, but notes that the AFM is one of the highest regulated markets in the Arab World.

However, market capitalisation compared to the size of the economy is high, indicating a well-established stock market and a relatively high level of local trading, the report said.

Turnover during 1993 constituted 23 per cent of market capitalisation, around the same level as for Venezuela and Indonesia, the report noted.

The analysts also noted that foreign investors were allowed to hold up to 49 per cent of a Jordanian company and the informal rule that a single foreign investor could not hold more than three per cent of the share capital of a company.

The Baring analysts also gave a list of shares that they recommend at the AFM: these included those of the Arab Aluminium Company, the Arab Bank Limited, Dar Al Dawa, the Industrial Development Bank and Jordan Cement Factories Companies and the Housing Bank.

Dubai sugar refinery to stake out regional share

DUBAI (R) — A private Dubai company has been building a large sugar refinery that will seek to cash in on an enormous appetite for sugar in the Gulf region where demand is put at a probable world record of 30 kilograms per head.

It has taken a two- or three-year lead over a Saudi-British plant planned for Saudi Arabia, but officials in each project said they thought the market was more than big enough for both.

The Dubai unit is to have annual capacity of about 800,000 tonnes, more than the entire 700,000-tonne market for sugar in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which groups Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

But while the 500,000 tonne per year Saudi plant will focus mainly on the 400,000 tonnes of Saudi demand, the refinery being built in Dubai's Jebel Ali free trade zone is considered an offshore refinery catering to the reexport market.

"The world is not the GCC," Jamal Al Ghurair, chairman and principal owner of the Dubai company, Al Khaleej Sugar, told Reuters. "Dubai does not live on the GCC only. We export to countries all over the world."

Mr. Ghurair is from a well-known Dubai business family, and some of his relatives have also joined the project. He had originally considered but decided against joining the Saudi project.

That one is to be built in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea port of Jeddah as a joint venture between Saudi Arabia's cooking oil giant Savola Co. (51 per cent), Britain's Tate and Lyle Plc (15 per cent) and 13 Saudi sugar merchants (34 per cent).

The joint venture is named United Sugar Co. (USC) and the refinery is being built at a cost of about \$120 million.

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Berger takes pole as Ferrari fill front row at German GP

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (R) — Gerhard Berger claimed Ferrari's first pole position for nearly four years Saturday when he outpaced all his rivals in final qualifying for Sunday's German Grand Prix.

Berger, who pushed his car to the limit on the fast Hockenheim ring circuit, clocked a fastest time of one minute 43.582 seconds to secure the prime grid position for the 45-lap race.

It was the Austrian's first pole since the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka in 1991, when he was with McLaren, and the first for

any Ferrari driver since the Portuguese Grand Prix in September 1990.

To cap a perfect day for the revitalized Italian team, Frenchman Jean Alesi claimed second place on the grid in the second Ferrari.

It was also the first all-Ferrari front row since that day at Estoril when Nigel Mansell and Alain Prost were their drivers.

Damon Hill, fastest Friday

and hoping for his third suc-

cessive pole, finished third in

his Williams, ahead of local

hero Michael Schumacher

who failed to improve on

fourth place in his Benetton.

Berger's time was nearly

five seconds slower than

Prost's peacetime effort at

Hockenheim a year ago fol-

lowing the introduction of the

latest set of safety regulations

which require the cars to

have a stepped-bottom by a

10m piece of wood.

Schumacher, driving under

protest at the two-race ban

imposed by the FIA Tuesday,

made a huge but abortive

effort to give the vast crowd

the result they had hoped for.

But with a Ford V8 engine

in his Benetton, Schumacher

was unable to compete on

even terms with the vastly

more powerful V12s of the

Ferraris and the V10 of Hill's

Renault-powered Williams.

GOODWILL GAMES

Cuba wins 6 boxing gold medals

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Cuba and Russia dominated boxing at the Goodwill Games with 11 of 12 gold medals, leaving the other gold Saturday for American Benjamin McDowell.

Cuba won six golds to five for Russia, but the Russians won three of five gold-medal bouts against the Cubans, seeming to signal the return of Russia as a boxing power.

"We had our boxers very well prepared for this event," said Russian Boxing Federation President Vladimir Ivanchenko. "As you know things are very difficult now, but step-by-step we're showing we stay even with the best in the world. That is Cuba."

Cuba's highly successful

coach Alcides Sagarrá showed no disappointment at his team's few setbacks.

"We're just now beginning to prepare ourselves for the world championships next year," Sagarrá said. "Even Cuban fighters lose fights at times."

The 1995 world championships are in Berlin next May.

Two Cuban Olympic gold-medal winners lost in the two days of Goodwill finals. Joel Casamayor at 57 kilos (125 pounds) lost a 15-8 decision against Russian President bronze medalist Ramzi Palyani, and Juan Carlos Lemus dropped a 15-7 decision to Russian Sergei Karavakev at 71 kilos (156 pounds).

Cuba's best-known Olymp-

pic gold-medallist, 26-year-old heavyweight Felix Savon, won his gold with the only punch he threw in his bout Friday, knocking out Russian Sergei Machalov in the first round.

The United States was saved from a shutout by McDowell, a 24-year-old U.S. army enlisted man from Fort Bragg, N.C., who won a 9-7 decision at 81 kilos (178 pounds) over Cuban Dibs-vany Vega.

"This is my biggest international win," McDowell said. "I was the underdog and I like being the underdog. Maybe I can realistically think about the Olympics now, but first I want a vacation, I don't want to get burned out on boxing."

Anti-gay Cob county dropped from Olympics

ATLANTA (R) — Olympic organizers Friday said they will not stage preliminary volleyball competition for the 1996 summer games in an Atlanta suburb renowned for its condemnation of homosexuals.

Up to now, competition was set for a convention centre in Cobb County, a staunchly conservative community located just north of Atlanta, where government leaders have passed a resolution saying the gay lifestyle undermines family values.

The resolution, adopted by the Cobb County commission a year ago, triggered a storm of protest from gay activists who have spent months lobbying the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) to drop the site from its list of venues.

The controversy peaked this week when Cobb County commission chairman Bill Byrne said he was fed up with ACOG and wanted the organising group's reservations for volleyball practice in 1995 opened to others interested in renting the convention hall.

ACOG said it will replace the Cobb County venue with the University of Georgia's coliseum in Athens, Georgia, about 60 miles (100 km) east of Atlanta.

Agassi beats Bruguera at Canadian Open

TORONTO (R) — Eighth seed Andre Agassi was too good for top-seeded Spaniard Sergi Bruguera in a hard-fought quarterfinal match at the \$1.72 million Canadian Open late Friday, coming away with a 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-1 victory.

"That's bigtime tennis," said the 20th-ranked Agassi of the one hour, 49 minute match. "Neither one of us could really hope to play better than that."

Fourth-seeded Jim Courier also looked fierce breezing past Thomas Enqvist of Sweden 6-2, 6-2, in another quarterfinal.

The semifinal pairings pit Agassi against sixth-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa and Courier against unseeded Jason Stoltenberg of Australia.

Ferreira beat 14th-seeded Malivai Washington of the United States 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 in one quarterfinal. Stoltenberg upset 15th-seeded American Richey Reneberg 6-4, 6-2 in the other.

Agassi eventually overpowered the fourth-ranked Bruguera in a match where both players pounded the ball ferociously.

"It was a great match and we both played as hard as possible," Bruguera said. "We put each other under a lot of pressure."

The match turned decisively in Agassi's favour after Bruguera, down 2-0 in the final set, had the American on the ropes at 0-40 in the third game. But Agassi won the next five points to save the serve and lead 3-0, then captured three of the last four games.

"If I'm hitting the ball that good I let my opponent worry about me," Agassi said. "Mentally, I think he got a little discouraged after that third game."

Despite his quarterfinal loss, Bruguera will move to a career-high ranking of number three Monday.

In all three sets Agassi took an early lead.

He led Bruguera 4-2 in the first set before the Spaniard broke even to 4-4. At 30-40 in the tenth game, Bruguera captured the first set when he smashed a vicious forehand right down the line.

Agassi had a 5-3 lead in the second set but Bruguera pulled even to force a tie-breaker.

At 2-2 in the tie-breaker, Agassi won the final five points to move the match into a final set. Bruguera double faulted on the last point of the tie-breaker.

Agassi now leads Bruguera 2-1 in career meetings.

The 12th-ranked Courier, who will move back into the top 10 Monday, played a tight tennis Friday. He now has a 2-0 winning record over the 49th-ranked Enqvist.

"Your game plan every match is to try and get up early and stay on top," Courier said. "Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Today was a good day for that."

Courier lost only nine



Andre Agassi

points in his eight service games, winning 24 of 27 first-service points in the match.

He never offered Enqvist a chance to break his serve in the 56-minute match.

The American was clearly dominant, racking in 25 outright winners to Enqvist's paltry seven in the match.

Enqvist held serve four times in the match — in the third and fifth games of the first set and the first and fifth games of the second set.

Majoli upsets Fernandez in Vermont

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vermont (R) — Iva Majoli of Croatia ensured that the semifinals of the \$400,000 U.S. bardours will be an all-European affair when she upset American Mary Joe Fernandez in a long duel late Friday.

The fifth-seeded Majoli, a 16-year-old ranked 23rd in the world, took advantage of three unforced errors in a third-set tie-breaker to edge the third-seeded, 11th-ranked Fernandez 6-3 5-7 6-3.

Majoli's first victory in

three matches with Fernandez put her in the semifinals against Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Spaniard Conchita Martinez will play South African Amanda Coetzer in the other semifinal.

The second-ranked Sanchez Vicario, the French Open champion, will carry a 1-0 record against Majoli.

The third-ranked Martinez, champion at Wimbledon, has dropped only one set in five meetings with Coetzer.

Majoli and Fernandez each scored two service breaks in the third set before the Cro-

atian took charge by running up a 5-1 lead in the tie-breaker.

"I think I played the important points better," said Majoli. "I went for my shots on those points and they were dropping in. In the tie-breaker, I just didn't make any errors."

It was the second match of the day for Fernandez, who scored an easy 6-1 6-0 victory over Sonya Jeyaseelan of Canada to reach the quarterfinals.

Sanchez Vicario and Coetzer

also each played two match-

es. Sanchez Vicario, rushing to finish a second-round match, dropped a set on her way to a 6-4 3-6 6-1 victory over Sandra Cacic. Then in the quarterfinals, the Spaniard won the final eight games in ousting another American, Tami Whittinger-Jones 6-3 6-0.

"I had some ups and downs in the first match, but I controlled the second one," said Sanchez Vicario who teamed with Martinez to lead Spain to victory last week in the Federation Cup in Frankfurt.

Spurs promise more new players after signing Klinsmann

LONDON (R) — Tottenham are still looking to sign more new players following their spectacular swoop for World Cup stars Jürgen Klinsmann of Germany and Ilie Dumitrescu of Romania.

Klinsmann, rated one of the best strikers in the world over the last eight years, scored five goals in the World Cup finals — and for Tottenham to capture his signature from Monaco for just £2.0 million (£3.06 million) on a two-year contract represents a staggering coup for chairman Alan Sugar and his manager Ossie Ardiles.

The news of Klinsmann's arrival broke just 48 hours after Spurs signed Dumitrescu from Steaua Bucharest for \$2.6 million (£3.97 million).

And Ardiles promised there would be at least one more top foreign player joining Spurs before the start of the season although he seems to have lost out in his bid to tempt the Brazilian World Cup defender Marcio Santos from Bordeaux to White Hart Lane. The centre-back is now "80 per cent certain" to join Fiorentina, according to his father.

Romania sweeper Gheorghe Popescu has also reportedly turned down Spurs, who had offered his club PSV Eindhoven £2.5 million

(£3.82 million). But Ardiles is still hopeful of signing Brazilian striker Muller for \$1.4 million (£2.14 million) from world club champions Sao Paulo.

The Tottenham boss pledged: "I am hoping to bring another player to the club. I'm practically sure that before the season begins, there will be another foreign player here."

Dumitrescu, who arrived in London for his medical Friday was eagerly anticipating the challenge of English soccer.

"The fact that we have lost six points should mobilize us as a team," said the 26-year-old. "It is only two games. I believe in the value of teamwork. Together we will overcome that handicap."

"I had offers from Bari, Padova and Monaco, and last night I had a telephone call from Atletico Madrid. But I chose Tottenham because I have a lot of respect for the club, they are a symbol of English football."

The dramatic signing of Klinsmann, one of the biggest world names to come to English football since the arrival at Spurs of Ardiles himself in 1978, has overshadowed all the rest of the wheeling and dealing and was completed in cloak and dag-

ger fashion by club chairman Sugar on his yacht off Monte Carlo.

Klinsmann, 30, was tempted to Spurs despite offers from Sampdoria and two Spanish clubs. He arrives in London Monday for the medical which will complete the formalities of the transfer from Monaco.

The blond German, a World Cup winner in 1990 who has appeared 62 times for his country, scoring 24 goals, said: "At first I was thinking of going back to Italy, then I was thinking more and more about Tottenham."

"They are a very prestigious club with a lot of tradition. It is a big challenge for me to play in the English premier league and I am looking forward to it."

Ardiles, who took no part in the actual negotiations, said: "Jürgen is a big, big signing. He is one of the best players in the world."

"Germany as a team did not have good World Cup, but Jürgen did. His signing shows the level of commitment we have here to return this club to the top. It shows our ambition."

"It is looking very exciting for us, especially up front. Going forward we are certainly going to be very, very strong."

The arrival of attacking midfielder Dumitrescu and striker Klinsmann at Spurs almost certainly means that some of the present squad will be moving on.

Vinny Samways looks certain to leave and is wanted by Everton, although they are baulking at Tottenham's asking price of £2.8 million



Jürgen Klinsmann

(£4.28 million).

In the space of three days, Ardiles and Sugar have cleared much of the gloom that surrounded White Hart Lane this summer after the FA punished the club for irregular payments to players by banning them from the FA Cup next season and making them start 1994-95 with a

six-point deficit.

Klinsmann began his career with Stuttgarter Kickers, then moved to VfB Stuttgart, and in 1989 went to Italy and Inter Milan in a £1.3 million (£2.0 million) deal. He claimed a UEFA Cup winners medal with Inter in 1991 then had a brief spell with Real Madrid the year after before joining Monaco.

Lang's goal upsets Monaco

PARIS (AFP) — Didier Lang's goal shocked French title challengers Monaco in their own stadium Friday as Metz won 1-0.

Metz, who finished just 12th last season, earned their first three-point win in the French league with Lang's 22nd minute goal.

And it was at the expense of last season's European Cup semifinalists, who have signed striker Sonny Anderson and defender Eric Di Meo from Marseille.

Francia Dumas fouled Robert Pires outside the area, and Lang made no mistake from the free-kick to beat keeper Fabien Piveteau and upset Arsene Wenger's team.

In other matches, champions Paris Saint Germain drew 0-0 with Le Havre, fourth from bottom last season. Ten-man Strasbourg, boosted by the signings of Franck Sauzeau from Atalanta and Xavier Gravelaine from PSG, played out a 1-1 draw with Cup Winners' Cup hopefuls Auxerre.

Francia Dumas, playing his first match since his disappointing year with Atalanta, relegated from Italy's Serie A, opened the score for Strasbourg. From a Gravelaine corner, Sauzeau headed home from the far post a minute before half-time.

But Bernard Diomedé equalised a minute after the break with a powerful shot. Then, eight minutes before time, Strasbourg's Pascal Bailly was sent off, but the

Alsace side hung on for the draw.

Auxerre coach Guy Roux did well to grab a point considering seven players were missing: Franck Silvestre and Pascal Vahirua were suspended, and Bruno Martini, Moussa Saib, Christian Henne, Christophe Cocard, and Alain Goma were injured.

Nantes, coached by Jean-Claude Suaudeau, also drew 1-1 at home to Lyon with Patrice Loko scoring for Nantes and Florian Maurice equalising a minute later in the 54th minute.

And Sochaux beat Caen, despite their signing of Sweden's World Cup star Kenneth Andersson, with two late goals for a 2-0 victory. Andersson joined Caen in May after following Lille coach Pierre Mankowski, but just last week, Benfica offered the Normandy club three million dollars for Andersson — about four times the amount Caen paid Lille.

"It's all very clear," Andersson said. "I signed a three-year contract here, and I will stay at least till the end of the current season."

Andersson did not regret signing the Caen deal, though, after his goals for Sweden in the World Cup, he could have clinched a much better move.

He even scored against Brazil in a 1-1 draw in Group B. Only one of two teams to beat Brazilian keeper Taffarel in seven matches at the World Cup finals.

Jockey Piggott planning return

NEWMARKET (England) — Lester Piggott plans to return to the saddle as soon as he has recovered from his latest racing fall.

As the racing world rallied to his defence to dismiss calls for his retirement, the 58-year-old jockey was recuperating at home Friday.

Piggott suffered concussion and bruising when the saddle slipped from his mount Coffee 'N Cream at Goodwood Thursday.

Family friend Anna Ludlow said: "He is fine. He got back today and there are no problems. He is bound by the seven-day rule for concussion to take a break but he will be looking to return to action as soon as he is allowed."

Piggott could be back on the racetrack as early as next Friday but will need to be examined first.

Inevitably some are calling for Piggott to slip back into retirement, as he did between 1985 and 1990, but an overwhelming number of his colleagues at Goodwood Friday back his decision to continue.

Richard Hannon, the trainer of Coffee 'N Cream, said: "He should carry on if that's what he wants to do and he still enjoys it. The fall was just one of those things but he probably doesn't bounce as well as he used to."

Jockeys association secretary Michael Caulfield said: "Certainly, he should not retire. He is a national treasure. Let's appreciate every moment of his career."

But Goodwood's clerk of the course Rod Fabricius believes retirement may not be too far away.

"Sooner or later in his own interests it would be best if he did consider retirement. But obviously the decision will not be easily made by him," he said.

"I think probably it should be taken out of his hands at some stage however brutal that may sound."

That's not to say his ability is wavering but Amos Domini will catch up with him eventually.

Jump jockey Mark Richards said: "I don't think there is anything left for him to prove now. He will never retrieve the heady days of his illustrious career now."

"I still feel he is brilliant but he doesn't have the touch of flare he used to. It is a shame to see someone so brilliant just become the norm."

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NBA's Magic sign Horace Grant

ORLANDO, Florida (R) — The Orlando Magic announced Friday that they have signed Horace Grant, making the free-agent power forward who won three NBA titles with superstar Michael Jordan a teammate of the league's tightest new marquee player, Shaquille O'Neal.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The 29-year-old Grant, who led the Bulls in rebounding the last six seasons, played on all three of the Bulls' championship teams from 1991-93 and has spent his entire seven-year career in Chicago.

"Hopefully, with my presence, we can go real far," said Grant, who made his first All-Star appearance this past season.

"We have a very young, talented team. The nucleus is great and it's exciting for me to be a part of that. I'm definitely up for the chal-

Jordan offers a dream challenge

NEW YORK (AFP) — Michael Jordan offered a challenge to members of Dream Team II, saying his original 1992 Olympic championship squad could beat the latest collection of National Basketball Association (NBA) stars.

Jordan, who retired last year to begin a baseball career, told the New York Post that he would love to play in a charity game matching the first Dream Team against the latest group assembled to play at the world championships starting Thursday in Toronto.

Responding to comments by Dream Team II players that they would win such a showdown, Jordan said, "Those guys are on the right team, because they are definitely dreaming. Not only was Dream Team I better, but we could beat them right now."

Jordan said he could average 32 points a game after only a couple of weeks to prepare, but said pride prevents him from ever considering a return to the NBA.

The seven-times NBA scoring champion, who led the Chicago Bulls to three straight league crowns, ripped his former teammates for a lack of support and said his late father James wanted him to retire during his final season because "he felt my teammates didn't appreciate what I was doing for them."

"I had totally lost interest," Jordan said of his final season. "I knew I had to give it up."

"They had no idea how much pressure and grief I had to put with off the court while carrying them on the court," Jordan said.

"Scottie (Pippen) found out the hard way what it's like to be under the microscope 24 hours a day. For the first half of the season he did great carrying the team. The second half, not so great."

Jordan said Pippen made a grave mistake by taking himself out of the final Bulls' playoff game when Toni Kukoc was set to take the final shot while Pippen would have been a

cent from the field.

Grant, who has shot better than 50 per cent in each of his seven seasons, has averaged 12.6 points and 8.6 rebounds in his career. He grabbed a club-record 344 offensive rebounds during the 1991-92 season.

"This signals one thing...a commitment by the ownership to make the Magic a championship-calibre team," Magic coach Brian Hill said. "He's going to give so much to our team. He knows what it takes to win a championship."

In May, the Bulls filed charges against the Magic for tampering with Grant, but the charges were later dropped. Grant became an unrestricted free agent July 1, 1994.

Bulls chairman Jerry Reinsdorf announced earlier Friday that they were no longer interested in re-signing Grant after he thought the two had reached a verbal agreement on a five-year, \$20 million contract.

Reinsdorf said he and Grant met face-to-face, at the player's urging, and came to the verbal agreement, but Grant later changed his mind.

"It's never been all about money," Grant told a news conference. "I wanted to search for a good organization. A good organization consists of a family atmosphere. I truly believe I found it, right here in Orlando."



Michael Jordan

McRae heading for 2nd world rally title

ROTORUA, New Zealand (R) — Scotsman Colin McRae was heading for his second victory in a world championship event Saturday after dominating the second day of the Rally of New Zealand.

Winning the day's first five special stages in his Subaru Impreza, McRae, 25, stretched his overnight lead, ending the day two minutes nine seconds ahead of world champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland.

"I just backed off in the last few stages today and I might back off a bit more tomorrow — we'll see what Juha does," McRae said.

Kankkunen acknowledged the quality of McRae's performance. "I was trying everything but he was going too fast," he said.

McRae now needs only to keep going through the relatively short third day Sunday — eight special stages totalling 98km — to repeat last year's victory.

In their efforts to combat McRae's devastating speed through the winding gravel roads of the east coast area, his closest pursuers all encountered trouble during the long second day.

Five top drivers hit roadside banks but managed to resume the contest — Toyota drivers Kankkunen and

Turkey seeks Colak's extradition

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey was seeking the extradition of soccer star Tanju Colak Saturday after he fled the country two days earlier just before a warrant for his arrest for car smuggling was issued.

The Istanbul daily Cumhuriyet quoted justice Minister Mehmet Mogulay Saturday saying officials had started legal proceedings for Colak's extradition from Macedonia.

However, Mogulay implied it may not be an easy process because Turkey did not have an extradition agreement with the newly-independent Macedonia.

Colak, the leading scorer in European soccer in the 1987-88 season, faces 22 months in prison and a fine of 772 million liras (\$24,000) for his involvement in the car smuggling.

"I am not sure if I will return to Turkey," Colak said earlier and added that he was waiting to have his sentence lifted by President Suleyman Demirel.

The said he should be forgiven just as the Argentinian government forgave soccer superstar Diego Maradona for drug offences.

The sentence effectively marks the end of Colak's career. As Turkish sports regulations forbid anyone sentenced for certain crimes, including smuggling, from playing professionally again.

Colak starred for the Istanbul team Galatasaray in the late 1980s and for Fenerbahce in the early 1990s. His career went into decline after legal and marital troubles and was fired from his first division club.

He was later transferred to Istanbulspor in the second division.

O.J. Simpson trial date changed to Sept. 19

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson's date for trial on murder charges was changed late Friday to Sept. 19 when the judge presiding over the case realised he had made a mathematical error.

Superior court Judge Lance Ito at first named Sept. 20, the 60th day following Simpson's arraignment last Friday, as the date for the start of the trial.

But he later changed it to Sept. 19, noting that under California's "speedy trial" law Simpson was entitled to be tried within 60 days of being arraigned.

Simpson has pleaded "absolutely, 100 per cent not guilty" to the murders of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and her friend Ronald Goldman, a 25-year-old model.

The two were stabbed and slashed to death outside Nicole Simpson's Brentwood apartment on the night of June 12, at a time when Simpson says he was at home waiting for a limousine to take him to the airport.

During a preliminary hearing marked by his civility, in sharp contrast to the heated courtroom skirmishes of past hearings, the two sides agreed to meet informally to discuss exchanges of evidence rather than make repeated court appearances.

Gerald Uelman, a member of Simpson's defence team, complained in court that police were not following up leads fast enough and that the defence was not being given enough information.

He said that in police documents handed to the defence team last week, "there was a report of an eyewitness who was in the alleyway behind Nicole Simpson's house who reports hearing someone leaving from the back gate and then two men arguing."

Uelman complained that the information was given in abbreviated form and did not include the witness's address or telephone number.

Deputy district attorney William Hodgman said the Los Angeles police department was making efforts to contact the witness and interview him.

Another defence attorney, Johnnie Cochran, said there was at least one other witness police interviewed some time ago, "who has given testimony or evidence that is totally inconsistent with the theory of a lone assailant and entirely inconsistent with the fact that Mr. Simpson is that assailant."

"To date, we have not received any report of that particular witness."

He added there were more witnesses "who have theories of multiple assailants of different ethnic backgrounds than Mr. Simpson that we think need to be pursued vigorously."

Hodgman assured the court that all leads and witnesses were being followed up.

Friday's hearing was on a defence motion asking for several specific items of information, including reports from hospitals in the area which may have treated someone for a "dog bite" wound on the night of the murders.

Nicole Simpson's large, white dog was found wandering loose following the slayings.

Responding to that request, Hodgman said the defence was trying to engage in a "fishing expedition."

"If they want to go fishing, I suggest they get their own pole and tackle box," he said.

He did agree, however, to turn over tapes from the district attorney's "hot line" containing tips from the public.

Uelman said the defence would turn its "hot-line" tips over to the prosecution, and the judge said he had also received telephone tips and letters which he would make available to both sides.

"Some are more interesting than others," he said, smiling.

In a rare moment of levity, laughter filled the courtroom several times when Ito noted that he had received many "non-party filings — individuals who have attempted

to join in this case (for) the defendant."

"They're welcome, your honour," lead defence attorney Robert Shapiro quipped. "Ito, with a deadpan expression and delivery, also announced that he had received a check for \$12 million as a filing fee."

"Did the check clear, your honour?" Cochran asked.

"I wouldn't be here if it did," Ito replied.

Practically the only person who did not laugh during the exchange was Simpson, who remained sombre.

Hours after Simpson's hearing, his friend, Al Cowlings, appeared before a municipal judge to hear prosecutors say they had not yet decided whether to charge him with aiding and abetting the flight of a fugitive.

It was Cowlings who was at the wheel of the white Ford Bronco June 17 when police pursued the vehicle in a chase that was nationally broadcast. The chase ended when Cowlings drove the car back to Simpson's home, where both men were arrested.

California police, meanwhile, were looking for the thief who stole Simpson's Heisman Trophy and his college football jersey from their display case at the University of Southern California.

The Heisman Trophy is awarded annually to the best college football player in the United States.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

55 injured in violence over Nasrin

DHAKA (AP) — Radicals demanding stiffer blasphemy laws and death to a feminist writer clashed with police and the author's supporters, leaving 55 people injured, reports said Saturday. Newspapers said the violence broke out overnight as nearly 50,000 Muslims dispersed after marching through Dhaka streets Friday to call for the execution of Taslima Nasrin, whom they accuse of insulting Islam. The reports said 40 people were injured when Islamic activists threw crude home-made bombs and 15 others were hurt when police fired rubber bullets at the demonstrators near Dhaka's parliament building. Police made 16 arrests. A nationwide strike called by the opposition Awami League party and secular student groups halted traffic and closed businesses in Dhaka on Saturday. The stoppage was a protest against the alleged killing of six people by supporters of the fundamentalist Jamaat-Islami party. The six died Tuesday in a clash between backers of fundamentalist leader Gholam Azam and secular students in the southern port city of Chittagong, Bangladesh, where the population is 90 per cent Muslim, is being increasingly polarized by such disputes. Ms. Nasrin, 31, went into hiding June 4 after a court ordered her arrest on charges of violating a 19th-century law against hurting religious sentiments. An Indian newspaper had quoted the writer as calling for a revision of the Koran. She says she was misquoted and had actually called for greater rights for women under Islam.

Two N. Korean defectors nabbed in Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Two North Korean escapees from a Siberian logging camp were caught trying to cross the Russian border into China with the intention of heading to South Korea, the media reported here. The Russian army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said Friday the two had escaped the Chagodnyy camp and were caught "recently" by Khabarovsk border guards. The two set off an alarm and were picked up after a five-hour chase. The paper did not say what became of the would-be defectors. South Korea earlier this year said it would accept defectors from the Siberian camps where thousands of North Koreans are employed, on "humanitarian" grounds, sparking allegations of kidnapping from North Korea. Meanwhile, ITAR-TASS news agency Saturday said customs in the far-eastern Vladivostok region had arrested a 52-year-old North Korean who was attempting to smuggle opium into the country.

Detectives among 4 killed in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Four people, including two detectives investigating a murder, died in a shootout at a house in Johannesburg's giant Soweto township early on Saturday, police said. A murder suspect and a bystander were also killed and a third policeman and a bystander were wounded in the shooting in Soweto's Orlando district, near the township home that President Nelson Mandela still owns. Police spokesman Henrie Oosthuizen said three officers were investigating the murder of a man whose throat was cut during the night. At least 330 South African policemen have been killed, mainly in the black townships, since the beginning of last year and about 1,000 have been wounded.

Maoist militants kill 16 in India

NEW DELHI (R) — A landmine planted by Maoist guerrillas killed 16 people on Saturday, most of them policemen, in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, the United News of India reported. It said several other people travelling in a police vehicle were injured in the explosion and that at least one was wounded by a bullet, indicating that militants had fired on survivors. The agency said the attack appeared to have been in revenge for the deaths of four militants in a gunbattle with police. Maoist militants, known in India as Naxalites after the town where their movement started in the 1960s, had distributed pamphlets in the area promising revenge. The landmine is a favorite Naxalite weapon against police. They have used them previously in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, where they are strongest, as well as in Madhya Pradesh.

Plutonium hidden in Switzerland

HAMBURG (AFP) — A German businessman on custody for possessing Russian plutonium which could be used to make nuclear weapons has offered to reveal another cache of the radioactive chemical hidden in Switzerland, the German weekly Der Spiegel reported Saturday. Adolf Jaekle told the government he would reveal the exact whereabouts of the 60 grammes of plutonium in exchange for a relaxation of his conditions of detention, the magazine said in an extract of an article in the edition which goes on sale on Monday. Mr. Jaekle said that apart from the six grammes of Russian plutonium 239 seized at his home in Tengen-Wiech and the 60 grammes in Switzerland, he also knew of places in Germany and Austria where traffickers had hidden enriched uranium. He said he would only reveal details, names of suppliers and buyers once his demands were met. Police enquiries into the affair are following several leads to Saudi Arabia, Russia, Bulgaria and Asia and believe the plutonium seized at Mr. Jaekle's home came from a Russian nuclear bomb factory. Russian authorities are angry that the Germans have not supplied them with a sample of the plutonium which would enable them to ascertain its origin, Der Spiegel said.

Front line welcomes new South Africa

WINDHOEK (AFP) The front line states formally dissolved Saturday and welcomed a reformed South Africa into a new political and economic organisation. Nathan Shamuyarira, Zimbabwe's foreign minister, said the front-line states would become the political and security wing of the South African Development Community, a regional group South Africa was to join in August. "The work of the front line states is now complete," Mr. Shamuyarira said after a meeting of southern African foreign ministers. The front-line states — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe — helped lead international opposition to white minority rule in South Africa. A black-led government took over South Africa after the country's first all-race elections were held in April. South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo attended Saturday's meeting in Windhoek.

Israeli coach says he was detained

TEL AVIV (AP) — A leading Israeli soccer coach said Saturday that he and two colleagues were detained by Dutch police in connection with the recent bombings of Jewish targets in London. "We didn't know if to laugh or to cry," Avraham Grant, coach of cupwinner Maccabi Tel Aviv, told army radio after four hours in custody at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. Mr. Grant said he and team officials Shimon Korek and Avraham Lev were seized upon arrival Friday. Despite protests that they were Israeli, he said, they were searched and marched across the terminal to separate tiny detention rooms. "I gave them my business card and asked, 'let us make a phone call, we're pretty famous in Israel,' but nothing. It was humiliating," Mr. Grant said. Dutch military police spokesman Alek de Jong said three men and a woman from KLM's flight KL120 from London were detained for a few hours Friday afternoon, but refused to disclose identities. Another passenger thought he recognised them from composite drawings of suspects made by British police, Mr. De Jong said. The Israelis were en route from Iceland to summer training camp in Germany and had only changed planes in London, Mr. Grant said. Eventually an officer returned their passports and freed them with apologies. Mr. Grant said, adding he "will not let this slide."

N. Korean premier seen unhurt by defection

TOKYO (Agencies) — North Korean Prime Minister Kang Song-San attended mourning rites for an old colleague, suggesting he was unhurt by the recent defection to South Korea of a man claiming to be his son-in-law.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo on Saturday, listed Mr. Kang in second place behind Communist Party Standing Committee Kiopjin O Jio-U among the mourners for Deputy Prime Minister Kang Hui-Won, who died this week.

The rites took place on Friday, KCNA said. Kang Hui-Won's funeral was set for Saturday.

Kim Jong-Il, son of the late President Kim Il-Sung who died on July 8 and his father's presumed successor, did not attend.

Premier Kang's position in the ruling hierarchy was unchanged from that revealed in the make-up of Kim Il-Sung's funeral committee.

The Tokyo-based Korea-

watch agency Radiopress said Premier Kang's involvement in this weekend's funeral rites for Kang Hui-Won indicated he was politically secure despite the defection of Kang Myong-Do, revealed on Wednesday.

The defector, who said he was Premier Kang's son-in-law, told a news conference in Seoul that his country had developed five nuclear warheads, contradicting North Korea's insistence it has no nuclear arms programme.

Pyeongyang said Kang Myong-Do is unrelated to Prime Minister Kang Song-San, and called him a criminal who embezzled public funds and then fled to the South to avoid punishment.

The U.S. government, which is spearheading international efforts to discover the truth about Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, has said it is seeking more information from South Korea on the defector's reliability.

Kang Hui-Won was the second high-ranking North Korean official to die since the July 8 death of the Stalin-

ist state's founder.

Official media reported on Thursday the death of General Jo Myong-Son, a prominent military and party figure who last served as vice-minister at the key public security ministry.

While South Korea officials seem convinced of the defector's identity, officials have cast doubt on the reliability of his information, which he says he got through conversations with the intelligence chief responsible for Yongbyon, the country's main nuclear complex.

The U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, which has been monitoring North Korea's nuclear programme, said Friday the claim to five warheads was doubtful.

"Based on information currently available to (the IAEA), the statement made by the defector is not judged to be plausible," the agency said in a statement.

Also on Friday, South Korea moved to dismiss the assertion as "transitory intelligence."

"We reaffirm that the defector's testimony has not been supported by solid proof," said Kim Hyong-Ki, spokesman of South Korea's Unification Ministry.

Vice-Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo and other senior South Korean officials held consultations Friday and decided that the latest assertion won't affect Seoul's policy towards North Korea.

South Korean government prosecutors have ordered a nationwide police roundup of 120 student leaders suspected of sympathising with North Korea.

The dragnet was a part of an ongoing crackdown since the July 8 death of Kim Il-Sung on students and other activists suspected of being pro-North Korea.

South Korea's strict national security law prohibits sympathy with North Korean ideology, but dissidents have demanded that the government send condolences to the rival North.

The government has refused, and has threatened to severely punish any who do.

Students have hung banners and passed out pamphlets eulogising the late Kim as a great leader who led Korea out of Japanese colonialism. Some of the wanted students are suspected of having held ancestral worship rites to pay their respects to Kim.

Most South Koreans blame Kim for having started the 1950-53 Korean war, and many have questioned the students' demands for condolences.

Conservatives have accused the student groups of being infiltrated by North Korean spies.

Hanyang University in Seoul kicked out a student organisation accused of being pro-North Korea from its campus earlier this week.

North Korea, meanwhile, slammed South Korea for its crackdown.

"The anti-North confrontation campaign is a desperate effort — of those who are driven to a tight corner," KCNA said Friday, quoting an editorial in the ruling party's Rodong Shinmun.

COLUMN

No room at dinner table for ex-president

NICOSIA (R) — Former Cyprus President George Vassiliou turned out for an official dinner with visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres — only to find that there was no seat for him. A furious Vassiliou, who left the reception without saying goodbye to the holiday island's distinguished guest, demanded a public apology Friday from President Glafcos Clerides, the man who defeated him in a presidential election last year. "What is really provocative is that I was invited to the official reception but not the dinner," Mr. Vassiliou told Reuters on the morning after. "I was talking to Mr. Peres and then walked towards the official dinner to find out that there was no seat reserved for me," he said. "When I turned around and told the (Cypriot) Foreign Minister (Alecis Michaelides) that I couldn't see my name anywhere, he said: 'You can't see it because you are not invited.'"

Mr. Vassiliou, who described the snub as a blunt violation of the country's protocol said he would meet Mr. Peres Saturday in the coastal resort town of Paphos and would explain why he left without saying goodbye to him. "What happened was really a disgrace. I demand a public apology from President Clerides," Mr. Vassiliou said. Mr. Peres arrived in Cyprus Thursday for a three-day official visit to strengthen ties between the Mediterranean neighbours.

Images of caravan trails released in ancient lost city

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Radar images captured in space of caravan trails near the lost city of Ubar on the Arabian peninsula have been released by scientists. The trails are buried under the sand in Oman said Mary Hardin, a spokeswoman for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which collected the radar images from the U.S. space shuttle programme. The images taken during an April shuttle mission gives scientists better data and a higher resolution image than they have ever had before. Ms. Hardin said. The ancient city was discovered in 1992 with the aid of remote sensing data. Archaeologists believe Ubar existed from about 2800 B.C. to about 300 A.D. It was a remote desert outpost where caravans were assembled for the transport of frankincense across the desert. The image-collecting mission is part of an ongoing programme to get pictures from hundreds of sites around the Earth. Ms. Hardin said. "By imaging the Earth with radar, we are able to study how the Earth is changing," she said. Other images recorded during the mission include a crater on the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico caused by an asteroid. The asteroid reportedly hit 65 million years ago and wiped out the dinosaurs, scientists said. Another image was a volcano in Colombia that is normally under heavy cloud cover, making it hard to study. The radar equipment will be taken back into space on Aug. 18 for a 10-day trip on the space shuttle.

Indian woman sentenced to death for bride burning

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian woman has been sentenced to death for burning her daughter-in-law alive because of an insufficient dowry, newspapers reported Saturday. "The person who perpetrates a barbaric crime without any human consideration must be given the extreme penalty," the newspapers quoted Judge Dinesh Dayal as saying when he sentenced the woman. The woman, named as Chandravati, was accused of killing her 20-year-old daughter-in-law by pouring kerosene over her and setting her alight in Delhi six years ago. Ms. Chandravati claimed the daughter-in-law died in an accident in the kitchen, where, as in many Indian homes, cooking was done on kerosene stoves. Scores of such deaths are reported each year in India, where demanding dowries is officially illegal but widely practised.

U.S. to give 50 F-16 warplanes to Israel

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Department of Defence released the following memorandum on Friday.

The U.S. Air Force will deliver the first of 50 F-16A/B aircraft to the government of Israel Monday, August 1, 1994, at Hatzor Air Base, Israel.

The transfer of the 50 aircraft was promised to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by President Clinton in November 1993 to support the Middle East peace process. The authority for the transfer comes from Presidential Determination 94-20 signed March 31, 1994. The PDD directs the drawdown of \$161.9 million in defence articles and services by the Department of Defence.

These funds will cover the first 35 aircraft which are scheduled to be delivered to Israel this year. The last 15 aircraft will be funded by an additional \$75 million special drawdown authority not yet designated by Congress.

The transfer of these F-16 aircraft supports the Middle East peace process by shoring up Israel's security, thereby reducing the risks inherent in achieving a lasting peace. The Department of Defence and the U.S. Air Force looks forward to continuing its close relationship with the Israeli Air Force.

Jordan reiterates stand

(Continued from page 1)

seini to Jordan to discuss the future of Jerusalem in the light of the Washington Declaration.

"Out of concern for good relations with Jordan, the Palestine National Authority (OIC), told an OIC meeting: 'The definitive status of Jerusalem should be defined according to the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian accord.'"

The OIC session also agreed to a PLO request for a \$2 million loan for the Palestinians.

PLO Representative at the United Nations Nasser Al Kidwa meanwhile informed the U.N. of the organisation's opposition to the Israeli pledge, in a message conveyed Friday to Secretary General Boutros Ghali and Security Council acting President Jamsheed Marker from Pakistan, the PLO news agency, Wafa, reported.

"The PLO calls on Israel to stand by its commitments on this issue as stated in the declaration of principles," the message said.

"Any legislation or action that might hamper the activities of Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem would be a clear violation of the text and spirit of the declaration of principles, and would harm the peace process."

Jerusalem "is an integral part of the occupied territories, and its status must be discussed during negotiations on the final status" of the territories, the letter reportedly said.

The letter, sent to Mr. Christopher through the American consulate in East Jerusalem, also praised American efforts to establish peace in the region. AFP



HONOUR GUARD: Honourary guards on Saturday march past the coffins of those killed in a bomb

attack in Madrid on Friday. The victims included a general (AFP photo).

Unemployment put at 18% in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Statistics Saturday said the total workforce in the Kingdom stood at 859,300 and the rate of unemployment was running at 18.8 per cent of the workforce.

According to a department statement, nearly 763,000 people are employed, of whom 434,806 are working in social and public administration ser-

vices. The second largest employer is the trade and restaurants and hotel sector which employs 129,754 people, followed by the mining sector with 91,086 people, the statement said.

It said the total number of job seekers as registered with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which normally recruits candidates for working in

government offices, now stands at 96,765.

In November, the government endorsed a development plan for 1993-1997 period entailing an ambitious programme to curb unemployment and reduce its rate to 9.6 per cent by the end of 1997.

The Ministry of Planning said then that the plan provides for invest-

ments in the economic and social and infrastructure sectors that would create 224,000 additional jobs.

According to the department statistics' statement Saturday, non-Jordanian workers with valid work permits now living and working in the Kingdom are 53,021, of whom 37,960 are Egyptians.

U.S. Congress clears way for debt relief

(Continued from page 1)

million in humanitarian and economic aid.

It also provided \$850 million for the former Soviet republics, but, with strong pressure from House Appropriations Committee Chairman Dave Bonior, rejected Senate attempts to "earmark" or provide specific amounts for some countries.

Mr. Obey said earmarks make his committee vulnerable "for the kind of demagoguery we have to undergo every day" from members demanding budget cuts while seeking money for their own pet programme.

Instead of obligating the administration, Mr. Obey softened the language to read that the government "should" provide \$150 million for Ukraine, at least \$75 million for Armenia and \$50 million for Georgia.

The total package of \$13.7 billion is more than \$600 million less than was budgeted for 1994. The compromise bill must still be approved on the Senate and House floors before going to the president.

The bill maintains military and economic aid amounts for the perennial big two — Israel again this year is budgeted \$3 billion and

Egypt \$2.1 billion.

It earmarks \$80 million for refugees from the former Soviet Union and East Europe resettling in Israel.

Among other items in the bill were: — \$1,235 billion for the International Development Association, the wing of the World Bank which provides soft loans for poorer nations. — \$802 million for Sub-

Saharan Africa.

— \$671 million for migration and refugee assistance. — \$359 million for Eastern Europe and the Baltic states.

— \$220 million for the U.S. Peace Corps programme.

— \$105 million for international narcotics control. — \$50 million for United Nations family planning programmes.

Lebanese on alert against attack

(Continued from page 1)

clear that these charges are without any grain of truth.

We are true Muslims and Islam does not allow the killing of civilians, women or children," Sheikh Tufaili said in a Friday sermon at a mosque in the suburbs of south Beirut.

He said his men would fight unto death to repel any major attack Israel mounts in Lebanon.

"Israel is insisting on holding Iran and Hizbollah responsible for the Argentine explosion to justify a major aggression in Lebanon," he said.

"Let everyone throughout the world be informed we will fight unto death and will seek to kill every Israeli who enters Lebanese soil as an aggressor," Sheikh Tufaili said.

In the l'Orient-Le Jour interview, the 46-year-old Tufaili said that missing

Israeli airman Ron Arad was "probably dead."

Arad was captured by Shiite Muslim zealots after his plane was shot down in South Lebanon in 1986. Israeli leaders say they have reasonable evidence showing Arad was still alive although they know nothing about his current whereabouts.

"Iran and Syria have undertaken determined efforts to find this airman to no avail," Sheikh Tufaili said.

"If this man is not in the hands of the fundamentalists, the Iranians or the Syrians, where will he be and what's the reason for holding him all this time?" the cleric added. "It seems obvious to me that Ron Arad is probably dead. He might have died in an accident and this is why not even his body has appeared," he said.

Save water...
every drop counts